



14th June 2024

Mr Duncan Smith, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Email: duncan.smith@oireachtas.ie

PQ 16810/24 *"To ask the Minister for Health the current waiting list time for adult mental health assessments within Fingal; and if he will make a statement on the matter."* **Duncan Smith, T.D.**

Dear Deputy Smith,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

I wish to advise that Community Health Care Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC) geographic area falls within two local authority areas Dublin City Council and Fingal County Council. There are three Community Health Care Networks within Fingal County Council boundary area comprising Balbriggan Network, Coastal Network (Kilbarrack East) and Swords Network. The average waiting time for an assessment across the six mental health teams within these three network areas as of March 2024 is eight months. It is important to note referrals are triaged based on clinical need which is determined based on the information provided in the referral and if it is deemed urgent an appointment is offered within one week.

I am pleased to update CHO DNCC Mental Health Services secured funding for an additional Consultant Psychiatrist post which we anticipate may assist with the growing population and associated mental health needs in the Fingal area with a particular focus in terms of supporting the needs of Balbriggan and Swords areas. Recruitment is ongoing to fill the post.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Marie Donohue
Acting Head of Service Mental Health
CHO Dublin North City & County