



21st March 2024

Mr Duncan Smith, TD
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

By Email: duncan.smith@oireachtas.ie

PQ 9481/24 *"To ask the Minister for Health to provide an action plan to address CAMHS waiting lists in CHO9; and if he will make a statement on the matter"* **Duncan Smith, TD**

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.

There are currently 238 young people on waiting lists for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) in Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC). This is a reduction of 11 young people awaiting their initial appointment this time last year, with no one waiting over twelve months for an appointment in 2023.

It is important to highlight that the service accepted a total of 1,024 urgent and routine referrals in 2023. There are currently only six young people waiting over nine months for their initial CAMHS appointment. CHO DNCC CAMHS currently have the lowest number of young people waiting over nine months for initial appointment across the country.

We are awaiting confirmation of extension of funding for the National Waiting List Initiative in 2024. The Waiting List initiative was funding the Department of Health provided to HSE in 2022 and 2023 to fund additional staff on a temporary basis in order to reduce waiting lists in CAMHS across the country.

CHO DNCC CAMHS will continue to address the number of children waiting for appointments in 2024, with the objective that no young person waits more than six months for their initial appointment.

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,

Donal Cassidy
Head of Mental Health Services
CHO Dublin North City & County