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Deputy Holly Cairns,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 27886/24**

**“To ask the Minister for Health when the ADHD in adults national clinical programme, covering Kerry and west Cork, will resume, having been paused in December 2023.”**

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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

This National Clinical Programme (NCP) applies to adults with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). ADHD is a common neuro-developmental disorder with 3 core symptoms (inattention, hyperactivity and impulsivity). The Programme is delivered as part of the HSE's mental health service provision and across government departments to ensure a holistic, integrated, person-centred response to adults with ADHD. It includes both assessment and treatment of the disorder and works collaboratively with voluntary agencies.

Access to appropriate intervention and treatment has been shown to significantly improve outcomes for this patient population. ADHD is a common childhood disorder with high rates of continuation of ADHD symptoms into adulthood. Prior to the development of the National Clinical Programme there were no specific ADHD public services available for Adults in Ireland.

The Kerry and West Cork Adult ADHD Clinic has been operational since October 2022. It is a specialist service providing assessment and treatment of ADHD for adults with moderate to severe ADHD symptoms. Since its inception, the referral rate has been higher than in other parts of the country and the provision of an Adult ADHD service has been positively received by service users.

In December 2023, the appointed Consultant Psychiatrist to the Kerry and West Cork Adult ADHD Service retired from the HSE. Pending recruitment of a replacement Consultant Psychiatrist and as an interim measure, one consultant was reassigned to the Adult ADHD clinic one day per week and an additional consultant provided on-site support two to three days per month. Unfortunately this restricted the cover the Adult ADHD clinic could provide and as a result, the number of new cases being opened was reduced to ensure the ongoing and effective treatment of existing open cases. However the Consultant Psychiatrist post for the Adult ADHD service was advertised and recruited for and we are in the final stages of pre-clearance checks before the new consultant commences in the post. Confirmation of their start date is imminent.

The reduced capacity of a Consultant Psychiatrist at the Kerry and West Cork Adult ADHD Clinic over the past number of months has impacted on service delivery. There are currently 274 open cases, 123 service users on the wait list for their initial assessment and an additional 42 service users are awaiting medical intervention with a Consultant Psychiatrist. This has extended the wait times for assessment beyond six months. As the clinic became aware of the delay in the waitlist beyond initial expectations, all service users on the list were provided with an update to ensure they were kept informed of their referral status.



I trust the above clarifies the queries raised. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

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**Julie O' Neill**  
**Head of Service**  
**Mental Health Services**  
**Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**