



Oifig an Stiúrthoir Cúnta,
Cúram Príomhúil Rochtain agus Comhthathú,

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.
D08 W2A8.

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28th June 2024

Deputy Murnane O'Connor
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 26931/24 -To ask the Minister for Health to report on the status of the waiting list action plan for psychology services for children and young people that has been funded through the HSE's National Service Plan 2024; the actions being taken under the plan; the impact of the action plan to date in 2024; the targeted outcome of the plan by the end of 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

-Jennifer Murnane O'Connor.

Dear Deputy Murnane O'Connor,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 26931/24) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Primary care psychology is a large provider of psychological services at primary/community level in Ireland. The service grew out of hospital and community care models, which are largely one-to-one assessment and intervention models. In 2023, primary care psychology offered approx. 88,000 appointments and saw 12,000 new clients (not including existing & non-referred clients to services such as stress control or walk-in advice clinics).

As part of the Waiting List Action Plan (WLAP), the waiting list initiative for Primary Care Psychology services have been extended to continue throughout 2024. This funding is once off in nature and does not carry WTE's. Funding allocated is based solely on additional activity undertaken towards those that are waiting over 12 months to access primary care psychology services.

As a consequence of the funding agreed for 2024, 3,088 children and young people are projected to be removed from the waiting list by the end of 2024. This activity continues to be in addition to the core activity of the in-house team funded by the core budget.

The following identifies the outturn for 2023 (to end of June 2024);

- 2,005 children or young people were contacted across each of the CHO areas.
- 1,545 children or young people responded.
- 1,213 children or young people were transferred and taken off HSE waiting lists.
- 794 children or young people were taken off the HSE waiting list other reasons.



- The total additional activity for Jan- Jun 2024 was 2,007.

I trust this is of assistance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Seán McArt', written in a cursive style.

Seán McArt

General Manager

Primary Care Access & Integration