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25<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Deputy Clarke, Dáil Éireann, Leinster House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

PQ 16335/25 To ask the Minister for Health the number of people seen by the Psychology in Primary Care children's service in 2024 and to date in 2025, respectively; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

- Sorca Clarke

Dear Deputy Clarke,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 16335/25) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Primary care psychology is a 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. Today, it provides a range of services of varying intensity, encompassing education, prevention, early intervention and a range of treatments. It also plays a key role in signposting and escalation to secondary and tertiary services, both in psychology and across other disciplines.

HSE Primary Care provides psychology services to a wide range of children and young people experiencing mild-to-moderate mental health difficulties, non-complex disabilities, & adjustment to health issues. Psychology is not provided for in each Primary Care Centre and is a specialist service delivered by psychologists at a network or area level.

In the full year 2024 a total of 41,984 patients were seen by Primary Care Psychology including 35,234 children.

In 2025 to the end of February a total of 6,468 patients were seen by Primary Care Psychology including 5,321 children

I trust this is of assistance.