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16/04/2025

Mr. Johnny Mythen TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin

PQ 18113/25

To ask the Minister for Health the number of children waiting for Psychology, Speech & Language Therapy and Occupational Therapy in Primary Care, County Wexford; the corresponding waiting times in weeks, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Mythen,

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

I have reviewed the matter and the following table outlines the current position.

Wexford Primary Care

| Primary Care Service | No of Children Awaiting Therapy | Waiting Time in Weeks |
|-----------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Psychology | 833 | 244 |
| SLT | 631 | 108 |
| OT | 1,312 | 200 |

Referral rates to primary care services have increased in recent years in line with national trends. The HSE is committed to delivering efficient high-quality services to all eligible service users. Primary Care Access and Integration is focused on improving access to care in order to reduce waiting times for patients. This includes monitoring the waiting list on an on-going basis in the context of available resources. In addition the HSE continues to address those longest waiters in psychology with the current Waiting List Initiative which includes children and young people waiting for > 52 weeks since 2021.

The HSE sincerely regrets waiting times for primary care services and acknowledges the impact on children and families awaiting appointments.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Goff
A/Head of Service-Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare