

13th May, 2025

Deputy Michael Cahill,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 18865/25

“To ask the Minister for Health unacceptable situation whereby CAMHS patients in County Kerry have to do online consultations with a consultant based abroad; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cahill,

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.

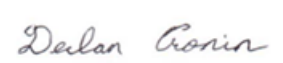
There have been significant challenges with recruitment for CAMHS Consultant Psychiatrists who would be based in Kerry. In order to continue to deliver this service in the Kerry region, the service had to widen the search outside of Ireland.

The use of tele-medicine clinics has helped to improve access to CAMHS. Young people and their families retain the right to refuse to engage with tele-medicine, and an appointment can be facilitated with the Consultant Psychiatrist when they are on site. Telemedicine currently provides an array of services, including but not limited to, diagnosis and assessment, medication management, as well as individual and group therapies. It is widely accepted that Tele-Medicine is suitable for a range of different settings or sites, including the patient's home, and is applicable to all age ranges. Where necessary, a Clinical Nurse Specialist will complete a physical healthcare monitoring check up prior to the tele-medicine appointment.

There are some evening and weekend clinics running in Kerry which can support attendance as well, as they may suit busy family schedules.

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

Yours sincerely,



Declan Cronin
Acting Head of Service
Mental Health Services