

26th February 2025

John Connolly TD
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ ref 5872/25

** To ask the Minister for Health the number of children waiting for an initial appointment at West Galway CAMHS.**

Dear Deputy Connolly,

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

We acknowledge the delays in accessing CAMHS and the difficulty this presents for young people and their families. This delay is due to the ever increasing demand for the service as well as difficulties in recruiting and retaining CAMHS professionals.

I can assure you that all referrals to CAMHS are clinically reviewed and prioritised. There is an active waiting list management system, which regularly reviews the clinical priority of referrals.

CAMHS is currently in receipt of funding as part of the national CAMHS Waiting List Initiative which supports CAMHS teams in addressing waiting lists.

There are 124 young people awaiting an initial assessment for West Galway CAMHS per the latest published waiting list performance data as at the end of Jan2025. Of these, 52 are new referrals, awaiting an initial assessment within the target timeframe of the CAMHS Operating Guidelines, i.e. first appointment within 12 weeks of referral.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Charlie Meehan
Head of Mental Health Services
Community Healthcare West