

**Head of Service Primary Care**

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**10<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

Mr Barry Heneghan TD,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

Email: [barry.heneghan@oireachtas.ie](mailto:barry.heneghan@oireachtas.ie)

**PQ 8154/25 – “To ask the Minister for Health the increased staffed investment she plans to make to address the waiting list crisis in Primary Care Child and Adolescent Psychology Services in CHO9; and when she intends to a recruitment drive for same to begin” - Barry Heneghan TD**

Dear Deputy Heneghan,

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

Integrated Health Areas Dublin North County and Dublin North City & West Primary Care Child Psychology service—currently provides a service across the three former Local Health Office areas of Dublin North (DN), Dublin North Central (DNC), and Dublin North West (DNW). Referral rates to the service have increased 40% in recent years in line with national trends. The child waiting list has increased by approximately 50% in the last 12-months. The table below outlines the current primary care position in relation to waiting list and whole time equivalent (WTE) psychologist posts in place for child services across the three Integrated Health Areas.

	Child waitlist	Longest waiter	WTEs in post	WTEs vacancies*
DN	1,754	470 weeks	4.5	2
DNC	1,029	215 weeks	3	0
DNW	1,437	394 weeks	3	2
Total	4,220	470 weeks	10.5	4

\* Includes vacancies going through the recruitment process, or temporary vacancies such as maternity leave which cannot be backfilled. Waitlist data valid as of 31.01.2025.

This week, the HSE confirmed funding of €4.75M nationally for a waiting list initiative targeting children waiting longer than 12-months for Primary Care Psychology services. €652K of this fund was allocated on a once-off basis to this area in order to provide a service to an additional 403 long-waiting children on the Primary Care Psychology list.

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

Yours sincerely,

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**Michelle Forde**  
**Head of Service Primary Care**  
**HSE Integrated Health Areas of Dublin North County and**  
**Dublin North City & West**