

18th June, 2025

Deputy Pa Daly,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 29056/25

“To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 1103 of 13 May 2025, the number of children on CAMHS waiting lists in Kerry, broken down by area and by length of time, in each of the years 2015 to 2025, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Daly,

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.

HSE South West operates in accordance with the CAMHS Operational Guidelines (COG) and accepts referrals for children and adolescents presenting with moderate to severe mental health disorders. Referrals are triaged based on three levels of urgency: routine, priority, and urgent. Access to the service is determined by clinical priority.

There is significant demand for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and we are currently experiencing a large number of referrals and increased demand for services. The multi-disciplinary team (MDT) screen all referrals according to clinical urgency. In some situations, where indicated, based on information provided in the referral, CAMHS also signpost to other services who may be able to provide support to families.

Once a referral is received by CAMHS, the team rely on updated information from a referrer regarding any clinical risks or changes in a young person's presentation whilst they are awaiting initial assessment. All information received from a referrer in regards to an update on clinical urgency is discussed at the Multi-Disciplinary team (MDT) meeting, and the priority for assessment is considered in the context of the other cases on the waiting list and urgent assessments referred to the service.

HSE South West acknowledges the lengthy waiting times that parents are experiencing. We sincerely regret that any child must wait for an assessment. We fully appreciate the level of stress that families are experiencing due to the current waiting times. Recruitment across CAMHS is ongoing and every effort is being made to ensure vacant posts are filled as quickly as possible. We are actively focused on reducing the overall waiting lists, with a particular focus on those waiting longest for access to CAMHS.

CAMHS North Kerry Waiting List 2015 - 2025

Team	Year	Total	< 3 Months No.	3 - 6 Months No.	6 - 9 Months No.	9 - 12 Months No.	12 - 15 Months No.	15 - 18 Months No.	> 18 Months No.
North Kerry	2025	YTD 86	9	19	15	14	19	10	0
	2024	66	18	4	18	19	6	1	0
	2023	49	6	11	18	7	4	2	1
	2022	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



	2021	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2020	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2019	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

- 2025 Jan – May, 86 young persons were waiting to be seen.
- 2019 – 2022 historical data is limited to the waiting list count at year end.
- 2015 – 2018 no historical data available.

CAMHS South Kerry Waiting List 2015 - 2025

Team	Year	Total	< 3 Months No.	3 - 6 Months No.	6 - 9 Months No.	9 - 12 Months No.	12 - 15 Months No.	15 - 18 Months No.	> 18 Months No.
South Kerry	2025	YTD 76	26	12	17	14	7	0	0
	2024	63	11	11	21	11	9	0	0
	2023	56	14	13	14	6	9	0	0
	2022	87	12	10	11	11	12	9	22

- 2025 Jan – May, 76 young persons were waiting to be seen.
- 2015 – 2021 no historical data available.

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