



Deputy Sorca Clarke
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

30th May 2025

PQ Number: 29108/25

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the percentage of CAMHS referrals currently being accepted for assessment and treatment, by area; and her plans to address the high rate of rejected referrals; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Sorca Clarke

Dear Deputy Clarke

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.

CAMHS is a specialist clinical service for people under 18 with moderate to severe mental health difficulties. The CAMHS teams meet every week to review all referrals. There are two types of referral to CAMHS: an urgent referral and a routine referral. Every effort is made to prioritise urgent referrals so that young people with high-risk presentations are seen as soon as possible; this is often within 24 to 48 hours. This may impact on wait times for cases that are considered, by a clinician, to be less severe. CAMHS teams meet to consider referrals every week.

At the end of April, there was 5,710 referrals accepted by the Community CAMHS

	2025		
	Referrals Received	Referrals Accepted	% Referrals Accepted
HSE Dublin & Midlands (Area B)	2,166	1,267	58.5%
HSE Dublin & North East (Area A)	1,880	855	45.5%
HSE Dublin & South East (Area C)	2,481	1,710	68.9%
HSE Mid-West (Area E)	736	497	67.5%
HSE South West (Area D)	1,114	544	48.8%
HSE West & North West (Area F)	1,451	837	57.7%
Total	9,828	5,710	58.1%



CAMHS is not a suitable service for many young people. Young people with mild to moderate mental health difficulties can access support at Primary Care level either through the HSE or through a range of organisations fully or partially funded by the HSE. Organisations that provide education and other support/clinical interventions at primary care level for young people and their families include;

- **Jigsaw** who are funded by the HSE to provide early intervention mental health services which focus on the needs of 12-25-year-olds. Staffed by fully-trained professionals across a number of disciplines, Jigsaw provide a range of community based mental health services in 14 centres around the country for young people experiencing mild to moderate mental health difficulties. During the pandemic they adapted their service models to ensure continuity of support by delivering therapeutic interventions by phone and online.
- **Text 50808**, funded by the HSE, was formally launched in June 2020. The service provides immediate support for people going through mental health or emotional crisis. By the end of the year the service was providing over 5,000 'conversations' per month to support people of all ages.
- The HSE also support online counselling providers **MyMind.org** and **Turn2Me** who provide counselling and psychotherapy to young people.
- **SpunOut.ie** provide articles and information for young people on many different topics including mental health on their website spunout.ie

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

Paul Braham
Senior Operations Manager (Area DON)
Assistant National Director
Access and Integration; HSE Mental Health Services