

25<sup>th</sup> June, 2025

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

**PQ ref 30903/25**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the number of children on CAMHS waiting lists in Kerry, by area, by length of time, in each of the years 2015 to date in 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 accept 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 on 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, and there is currently a lengthy wait time to be seen. The multi-disciplinary team (MDT) screen all referrals according to clinical urgency. In some situations, where indicated, on the basis of information provided in the referral, CAMHS also signpost to other services who may also 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 has to 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 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



	<b>2022</b>	<b>29</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>2021</b>	<b>35</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>2020</b>	<b>44</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>2019</b>	<b>32</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

- 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**

<b>Team</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>&lt; 3 Months No.</b>	<b>3 - 6 Months No.</b>	<b>6 - 9 Months No.</b>	<b>9 - 12 Months No.</b>	<b>12 - 15 Months No.</b>	<b>15 - 18 Months No.</b>	<b>&gt; 18 Months No.</b>
<b>South Kerry</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>YTD 76</b>	26	12	17	14	7	0	0
	<b>2024</b>	<b>63</b>	11	11	21	11	9	0	0
	<b>2023</b>	<b>56</b>	14	13	14	6	9	0	0
	<b>2022</b>	<b>87</b>	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,

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**Declan Cronin**  
**Acting Head of Service**  
**Mental Health Services**