

Deputy Frank Feighan
Leinster House
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

28th March 2025

Re: PQ 10255/25

To ask the Minister for Health for clarification regarding the recent cancellation of CAMHS services in Team 1 for under 18s in Leitrim/East Sligo/West Cavan; the refusal of new referrals from GPs to this service; the impact of services to current patients, due to the lack of a clinical lead consultant for Team 1; the recruitment efforts and timelines; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Feighan,

I refer to your recent correspondence in relation to the above received to this office on 3rd March 2025. My apologies for the slight delay on the issuing of this response to you. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position of Sligo Leitrim Mental Health Service (SLMHS).

The reason CAMHS referrals have been suspended to the CAMHS Team 1 Leitrim/East Sligo/West Cavan team is due to there currently being no Consultant available to provide Clinical Leadership.

In light of the absence of a consultant in this team, and to ensure safe Clinical Practice, the normal functioning of the team is not possible until the Consultant has commenced. This is impacting on new referrals being reviewed and triaged and it may also impact on the continuing care of ongoing cases.

The recruitment of the consultant post for CAMHS Team 1 has progressed with a consultant recently being appointed, however a start date has not yet been confirmed. Lack of available accommodation has contributed to a delay on commencement. Referrals will resume once the consultant has commenced.

At present there are currently one hundred and fifty-seven children/young people on the Sligo/Leitrim CAMHS waitlist for assessment. Out of this, fifty-five of the children/young people are on the CAMHS Team 1 waitlist which will be on the case load to be covered by the new consultant.

SLMHS look forward to the commencement of the new CAMHS Consultant Psychiatrist who will be a most welcome and beneficial asset to the service.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, however should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Pauline Ackermann
General Manager
Mental Health Services CHO1 CDLMS