

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

**Deputy Eamon Scanlon  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2**

**Re: PQ 10288/25**

*To ask the Minister for Health the reason CAMHS referrals have been suspended in an area (details supplied); when it is expected referrals will resume; the current number of referrals for support services to Sligo and Leitrim CAMHS service currently awaiting assessment; the current number of HSE vacancies in the Sligo and Leitrim CAMHS service; and if she will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy Scanlon,

I refer to your recent correspondence in relation to the above received to this office on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position of Sligo Leitrim Mental Health Service (SLMHS).

The area referenced in your query is referred to as CAMHS Team 1 Leitrim/East Sligo/West Cavan. There are a total of two CAMHS teams for the Sligo/Leitrim area.

The reason CAMHS referrals have been suspended to the above team is due to there 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 (Leitrim/East Sligo/West Cavan) 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.

Vacancies in the Sligo/Leitrim CAMHS Service at present include the following:

- 1 Consultant Psychiatrist Post
- 1 Staff Grade Occupational Therapist post
- 1 Staff grade Psychologist Post (post holder due to commence on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March)
- 1 Social Care Leader post
- 2 Vacancies due to Maternity Leave (a Senior Social Worker and a Senior Psychologist)

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,

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**Pauline Ackermann**  
General Manager  
Mental Health Services CHO1 CDLMS