

10th April 2025

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

PQ ref 11541/25

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons awaiting a psychology report for mental health intellectual disability services in each of the CHO4 areas; the current expected waiting time for an assessment; in each of the years 2020 to date, 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.

There are two Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Intellectual Disability (ID) teams in Cork and Kerry, but they do not include Psychology. Psychology in Mental Health services is not involved in the assessment or diagnosis of ID but may co-work on cases with mental health co-morbidities.

Routine cognitive assessments are not performed in CAMHS. If a cognitive assessment is required (either at referral or through Multi-Disciplinary Team for open cases), it is requested from Primary Care or the respective Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT). Young people with mild ID and moderate to severe mental health difficulties are accepted into Community CAMHS but are not treated differently from others on the external waiting list. CAMHS teams across CHO4 work closely with CDNTs to provide shared care arrangements.

Regarding assessments under the Disability Act, I am not aware of any requests for psychologists in MHID or CAMHS to conduct these. There is no waiting list for such assessments in Mental Health. This matter may need to be redirected to Primary Care (which supports AON) and Section 38 agencies via the Head of Service for Disability.

In adult Mental Health services, access to MHID requires a diagnosis of ID. Most referrals from Mental Health community teams already include this, but in cases where an adult presents without a prior diagnosis, a local Mental Health Psychologist conducts a cognitive assessment. If ID criteria are met, the person can access MHID psychology services without delay. Currently, I am not aware of any pending assessments.

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