



**Oifig an Stiúrthoir Cúnta,
Cúram Priomhúil Rochtain agus Comhthathú,**
Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.
D08 W2A8.

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8th April 2025

Deputy Ó Laoghaire ,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 12998/25 To ask the Minister for Health the protocol that is followed when persons who are on waiting lists for adolescent primary care mental health teams reach the age of 18; if they are informed of their being removed; if they are automatically added to an adult list or informed of their right to apply for an adult waiting list; and whether such persons are removed from the list.

PQ 12999/25 To ask the Minister for Health if persons who have reached the age 18 and are on primary care adolescent primary care mental health waiting list, are then removed from the waiting list

PQ 13000/25 To ask the Minister for Health the number of people in 2025 who were removed from primary care mental health waiting lists due to reaching the age of 18.

PQ13001/25 To ask the Minister for Health the number of people in 2025 who were transitioned directly from a adolescent primary care mental health team to an adult primary health care waiting list

PQ 13005/25 To ask the Minister for Health the number of people on adolescent primary care mental health waiting lists in each of the past four years who were assessed for transition to primary care mental health waiting lists.

PQ 13006/25 To ask the Minister for Health the number of people in each of the past four years who were removed from primary care mental health waiting lists due to reaching the age of 18, broken down by CHO.

PQ13007/25 To ask the Minister for Health the number of people in each of the past four years, who were transitioned directly from an adolescent primary care mental health team to an adult primary health care waiting list, broken down by CHO.

-Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire

Dear Deputy Ó Laoghaire,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions (PQ 12998/25 PQ 12999/25 PQ 13000/25 PQ 13001/25 PQ 13005/25 PQ 13006/25 PQ 13007/25) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I will respond to these PQs together as they cover the same topic. Following a clarification sought from your office I have been informed that your question relates to primary care psychology only.

Primary care psychology is a provider of psychological services at primary/community level in Ireland. The service grew out of hospital and community care models which are largely one-to-one assessment and intervention models. Today, it provides a range of services of varying intensity, encompassing education, prevention, early intervention and a range of treatments. It also plays a key role in signposting and escalation to secondary and tertiary services, both in psychology and across other disciplines.



Children and young people presenting with mental health difficulties in primary care predominantly receive treatment for these conditions from psychology services. The majority of HSE areas around the country provide lifespan primary care psychology services. Children and young people in these areas do not need to leave psychology services when they turn eighteen if psychological care is still required.

In areas where psychology services can be accessed by children only, in the main, clients are either prioritised for service input or are offered a consultation(s) to offer advice/resources and determine the best service to attend moving forward. In areas where adult psychology advice clinics are in operation, young adults can also attend for advice on a consultation basis after the age of eighteen.

The HSE does not routinely collect statistics on the number of young people on primary care waiting lists who turn eighteen &/or experience a care transition at this point.

I trust this is of assistance.

Seán McArt
General Manager
Primary Care Access & Integration