

27th March, 2025

Deputy Ann Graves, TD
Dáil Eireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re: 9606/25

To ask the Minister for Health the average wait time by facility from referral to admission for addiction rehabilitation and detox; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Ann Graves

Dear Deputy Graves,

The Health Service Executive have been requested to reply directly to your above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position:

An analysis of the data provided in treatment services within the National Drugs Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS) (see information about the [NDTRS](#)) includes all cases treated for problem use of drugs as a main problem in 2023 (the most recent year available). **Wait time** is calculated here as the number of days between date referred for treatment and date treatment commenced. Addiction treatment services may have different entry policies; therefore, data may not be directly comparable and should be interpreted with caution.

Under Action 5.1.47 of the National Drugs Strategy 2017-2025 all publicly funded drug and alcohol services are required to return data to the NDTRS. The analysis includes cases treated for problem alcohol or other drugs use as a main problem in residential treatment services in Ireland in 2023. This includes cases treated in residential detoxification services and those who received a detox in a residential service. Cases treated in non-residential settings such as outpatient services, low threshold services, general practitioners (GP) and prison services have been excluded from this analysis. The figures reflect assessments and entries into treatment in 2023 (new cases and previously treated cases returning to treatment) and do not include the number of cases continuing in treatment from preceding years. It is not possible to distinguish between step-down and other types of treatment provided in residential services within the NDTRS.

Once the exclusion criteria as outlined above were applied, 4,540 cases were treated in residential addiction rehabilitation and detox services in 2023. Of these 647 cases were treated in specialised inpatient detoxification services (Table 1).

Table 1: Number of cases treated in residential addiction rehabilitation and detox services, NDTRS 2023

	Total
Specialised inpatient detoxification service	647
Other inpatient treatment service	3893
Total	4540

In 2023, the median wait time to treatment for all cases treated in residential services was 18 days. This indicates that half of cases waited less than 18 days and half waited more than 18 days for treatment (Table 2).

Table 2: Average wait time (days) from referral to treatment start in residential addiction rehabilitation and detox services, by year, NDTRS 2023

	2023
Median (days)	18

Wait time for treatment varied across service providers. The median wait time (days) for treatment in 2023, for individual residential addiction services is outlined below (Table 3).

Table 3: Average wait time (days) from referral to treatment start in residential addiction rehabilitation and detox services, by service provider, NDTRS 2023

Service Provider	Number of cases	Median wait time (days)
Cuan Mhuire, Athy	781	19.0
Cuan Mhuire, Bruree	569	15.0
Cuan Mhuire Coolarne Athenry	350	8.0
Aiseiri, Tipperary	173	50.0
Addiction Liaison Nurse Cavan Hospital	160	0.0
The Grove	155	6.0
Tabor Lodge	151	20.0
Aiséirí Roxborough, Wexford	141	25.0
Rutland centre	138	24.0
Cuan Mhuire, Farnanes (female)	134	13.5
Dublin Simon Community Detox Unit	119	29.0
White Oaks Rehabilitation Centre	119	35.0
PMVT - Peter McVerry Trust Residential Stabilisation Service Phibsborough Road	93	61.0
Hope House	92	28.0
PMVT - Peter McVerry Trust Residential Stabilisation Service Barrymore House	88	87.5
Tiglin Mens Residential Rehabilitation Centre	84	0.0
Cuan Dara, Cherry Orchard	82	80.5
St Michaels ward, Beaumont Hospital	82	68.5

Bushy Park House	76	22.0
Aislinn Adolescent Treatment Addiction Services, Kilkenny	74	38.0
(PMVT) Peter McVerry Trust, Residential Community Detox	74	40.0
PMVT - Peter McVerry Trust Residential Community Treatment	73	0.0
Dublin Simon BBVU Respite Stabilisation	70	16.0
Coolmine Lodge	66	0.0
St Francis Farm	62	139.0
Fellowship House, Cork	59	75.0
Coolmine Therapeutic Community - Ashleigh House	46	0.0
Tiglin Womens Residential Rehabilitation Centre	43	0.0
St James Camino Network, Enfield	41	37.0
Teach Mhuire, Dublin (male)	39	6.0
Teach Mhuire, Cork (male)	36	5.5
Coolmine Therapeutic Community - Westbourne House	34	4.5
Tabor House	34	44.0
MQI High Park	32	57.5
NOVAS Health and Wellbeing	27	1.0
Aiséirí Céim Eile, Waterford	21	28.0
Sancta Maria Limerick (female)	21	0.0
Teach Mhuire Limerick (male)	19	0.0
Teach Mhuire, Galway (male)	19	16.0
Sancta Maria Dublin (female)	12	33.5
New Hope Residential Centre	11	30.0
Cuan Mhuire Transition House Ballybay	9	18.0
Aiséirí Céim Eile Female Recovery Residence, Waterford	7	12.0
Aiséirí Céim Eile Male Recovery Residence, Waterford	7	20.0
Coolmine Integration Programme	7	0.0
Aiséirí Céim Eile Female Secondary Treatment Programme, Waterford	<5	63.0
Oberstown Children Detention Campus	<5	4.0
Sligo Leitrim Acute Mental Health Unit	<5	5.0

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Doyle
National Lead, Social Inclusion