



Office of the Assistant National Director
Access and Integration

HSE Mental Health Services,
St. Loman's Hospital,
Palmerstown, Dublin 20
D20HK69

Oifig an Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta Cúnta
Rochtain agus Comhtháthú: Seirbhísí
Meabhairshláinte FSS
Ospidéal Naomh Loman
Baile Phámar, Baile Átha Cliath 20
D20HK69

www.hse.ie
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e: PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie

Deputy Sorca Clarke
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

13th May 2025

PQ Number: 22388/25

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of referrals and the number of acceptances from the referrals for each CAMHS team. –Sorca Clarke

Dear Deputy Clarke,

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

HSE Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) provide specialist mental health services to those aged up to 18 years, who have reached the threshold for a diagnosis of moderate to severe mental health disorder that require the input of multi-disciplinary mental health teams. In 2019, the HSE published the CAMHS Operating Guideline (COG) in order to streamline processes according to best practice. The purpose of the Operational Guideline is to provide consistency in the service delivery of CAMHS throughout the country. The COG sets out the referral criteria for the types of referrals suitable for CAMHS and the types of referrals not suitable for CAMHS (see link to full document below). Please note this document is currently under review with a view to publishing a new version later this year.

<https://assets.hse.ie/media/documents/ncr/camhs-operational-guideline-2019.pdf>

In accordance with Section 4.2 and Section 4.3 of the COG, children or young people referred to community CAMHS must fulfil the following criteria:

- The child or adolescent is under 18 years old
- Consent for the referral has been obtained from the parent(s)
- The child or adolescent presents with a suspected moderate to severe mental disorder
- Comprehensive treatment at primary care level has been unsuccessful or was not appropriate in the first instance

Referrals are not accepted by Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services if they do not meet the referral threshold of moderate-severe mental illness/ mental health difficulties.



The table below provides the latest available information on the number of children and young people referred by each CAMHS team as at end of **March 2025**. Please be advised that this data is preliminary and subject to change and amendment pending ongoing review and validation.

HRA	Referrals Received	Referrals Accepted
HSE Dublin & Midlands (Area B)	1,601	935
HSE Dublin & North East (Area A)	1,367	635
HSE Dublin & South East (Area C)	1,919	1336
HSE Mid-West (Area E)	562	375
HSE South West (Area D)	838	403
HSE West & North West (Area F)	1066	628
Total	7,353	4,312

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

Michelle Butler
General Manager Child and Youth Mental Office
Access and Integration; HSE Mental Health Services