



Oifig an Chomhairleora Chliniciúil
Náisiúnta agus Ceannaire Grúpa do
Mheabhairshláinte

HSE, Ospidéal an Dr Stevens, Baile Átha
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Deputy Holly Cairns,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

13th October 2025

PQ Number: 54352/25

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health to provide the current staffing levels for adult ADHD services in each LHO; and the current waiting list for each, in tabular form. -Holly Cairns

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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.

The HSE Adult ADHD National Clinical Programme (NCP) was launched by Minister Butler in 2021. Since then, she has funded all 11 catchment area teams over the past 3 years. Seven services are now in place with the service funded late 2024 due to open this November. The three remaining services funded this year are in the process of being established by the NCP's Clinical Lead who is working closely with the relevant Mental health Management Teams involved regionally.

The existing services have all been negatively impacted by very high referral numbers multiples of those anticipated when the NCP's Model of Care (MoC) was designed pre-pandemic. In addition, the HSE recruitment embargo meant this was compounded by staff vacancies not being filled. These vacant existing posts have been gradually filled this year. However, in one Region (Dublin Midlands) there is a delay in getting approval for 2 vacant posts to be filled.

The table below shows the waiting time for each service together with its vacancies.

As a consequence of the unprecedented high referral numbers, the NCAGL Mental Health in conjunction with ADHD Ireland asked the NCP's Clinical Lead and ADHD Ireland's Clinical Lead to consult and design a proposal to better meet the need for assessment of ADHD in adults in Ireland. This Report is under consultation and, if approved, will lead to the development of a Primary Care Hub working in tandem with each existing service. It also identified amendments to the current MoC which would enable existing services to continue to function and specifically accept GP referrals. These amendments are being piloted in the Midlands Service and will also be implemented in the four new services being established.



Services	Waiting time	Posts sanctioned	Vacant posts
Sligo/ Donegal	2 ½ years	3.5 WTE	CNS 1 WTE vacant 2+ YEARS
Dublin South East and Wicklow	Closed to GP referrals May 2024. Responding to CAMHs transition referrals mainly	6WTE	All filled
Limerick/ Clare North Tipperary	15-18 months	6 WTE	1 senior OT vacant 2 years CNS post vacant past 2 years. Filled August 2025.
Kerry/ West Cork	Closed to all referrals Sept 2024 when consultant retired. Will re-open when new consultant starts	4.5 WTE	Vacant consultant post recently filled- no starting date yet. 0.5 WTE senior OT post currently vacant
Cork City and North Cork	Closed to GP referrals Sept 2024. Responding to existing waiting list and CAMHs transitions	5 WTE	All posts filled but unfilled CNS maternity leave until Dec. 2025
Dublin South Central and West	Seeing CAMHs transitions only. Not accepting GP referrals	5	1 senior OT post vacant since mid-2023 1 CNS post funded by DOH and never filled
Midlands/Kildare/West Wicklow	Implementing amended MoC. Open Laois/Offaly and extending to Kildare/West Wicklow Nov 2025 waiting list is 6 months for Laois Offaly referrals.	5	Converted Senior Psychologist to NCHD within Region. All 5 posts filled currently but two via agency (admin and NCHD)

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Amir Niazi
National Clinical Advisor & Group Lead for Mental Health
Clinical Design and Innovation
Health Service Executive