



06/11/2025

Deputy Shane Moynihan,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 55787/25 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of children that were referred to the primary care child psychology service in Dublin west in the past year but not placed on the service waitlist; the number deemed not in need of these services; the number whose parents subsequently indicated that they were not consenting to the service; the number removed from the list due to non-response to a HSE request for additional information, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Moynihan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for a response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has confirmed that the Primary Care Psychology Service in Dublin West covers the Community Healthcare Areas of Clondalkin, Lucan, and Ballyfermot-Palmerstown. Currently, there are a number of vacant Psychologist positions in this area and as a result the Psychology service was suspended temporarily. The HSE continue to review service needs and prioritise services for recruitment in line with the HSE's Pay and Numbers strategy, and recruitment is ongoing for several posts in this area. A new staff member is due to commence in the coming months; and the service plans to recommence once the staff member is in post.

Referrals can be made to this service by HSE professionals, schools, preschools, and general practitioners (GPs). The Psychology service request and seek consent from parents, either directly or through the point of referral. In line with the principles outlined in the HSE National Consent Policy regarding the best interests of the child, if consent is not obtained as part of the referral process, a letter will be sent to parents. This letter will inform them that their child has been waitlisted pending consent and will request that they provide consent within a specific timeframe. It is important to note that no child will be disadvantaged if their parent does not provide consent within the specified timeframe. The timeframe is established by the service to facilitate efficient triaging of referrals.

Figures YTD Sept 2025	Dublin West
Number on Waitlist	1,389
Number referred in 2025	346
Waitlisted	160
Referrals Pending Clinical Review	142
Not Accepted	44
Patient attending another service	6
Signposted to other service	3
Service unable to contact parents	1

I trust this information is of assistance to you but if you have any queries or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Kearney
Head of Primary Care
Dublin South City & West, Dublin South West, Kildare & West Wicklow Integrated Healthcare Areas, HSE Dublin & Midlands