



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

20th October 2025

PQ Number: 56277/25

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health to set out the average waiting time for a first appointment with a psychologist under HSE mental health services; and to detail how the 2026 funding aims to improve access. - 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.

We don't collect waiting times by individual disciplines in Mental Health Services. Mental Health Team consist of range of multi-disciplines which services can access based on need when attending a service.

The CAMHS waiting list at the end of August is as follows

Total waiting to be seen at end of August 2025		<= 12 weeks No.	> 12 <= 26 weeks No	>26 <=39 weeks No	>39 <=52 Weeks No	>52 Weeks No
National Total	4,144	1,300	1,041	716	482	605
HSE Dublin & Midlands	664	258	179	147	52	28
HSE Dublin & North East	1,008	206	269	177	143	213
HSE Dublin & South East	594	276	166	100	37	15
HSE Mid-West	160	37	44	32	27	20
HSE South West	987	184	197	158	141	307
HSE West & North West	731	339	186	102	82	22

In General adult services offered 90% of new appointments within 12 weeks with the remainder seen shortly afterwards, for our POLL services 98% of new appointments were offered within 12 weeks.

The Recruitment of 300 WTEs as stated in the budget and creating specialist teams should, over 12–36 months, increase appointment capacity and therefore reduce waiting lists — but it will not instantly wipe out multi-year waits already in the system. Implementation, workforce recruitment timelines, and where staff are deployed determine how quickly local waiting times will fall.



I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

Paul Braham
Senior Operations Manager (Area DON)
Access and Integration; HSE Mental Health Services