



Stiúrthoir Réigiúnach na
Síceolaíochta
FSS an Iardheiscirt
Teach Caha, Párc Ghnó &
Teicneolaíochta, Bóthar na Modh
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19th September 2025

Mr. Michael Cahill, T.D.,
Dail Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 44893/25

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of children awaiting psychological treatment in County Kerry, in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and to date in 2025, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter.”

PQ ref 44894/25

“To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the number of children awaiting psychological treatment in County Kerry, in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and to date in 2025, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter.”

PQ ref 44897/25

“To ask the Minister for Health the plans being put in place to address the large waiting lists for children that are awaiting psychological treatment in County Kerry; and if she will make a statement on the matter.”

PQ ref 44898/25

“To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the plans being put in place to address the large waiting lists for children that are awaiting psychological treatment in County Kerry; and if she will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Cahill

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you in the context of a the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Health and the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth for response.

WAITING LISTS:

Details of those awaiting psychological treatments as per request are only available in full for Primary Care Psychology. This data is collected as a part of agreed national key performance indicators and is outlined below as per your request.

Kerry Primary Care Child, Adolescent & Family Psychology Service

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 (August 31 st)
Referral Rate to End Yr	102	168	232	291	440	303
No. waiting Yr End	217	330	487	543	941	1022



Kerry Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) (Psychology)

CDNTs provide interdisciplinary support for children and their families; a number of professionals of different disciplines working together with the child and family, sharing information, decision-making and goal setting. They do not maintain waiting lists for individual disciplines.

Kerry Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) (Psychology)

Please note that we do not have a KPI national return for CAMHS Psychology. CAMHS KPI data is team-based on national returns. The data in the table below reflect the Psychology internal waiting list for North and South Kerry CAMHS based on stats returns. This data is only available from 2023.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Psychology Waiting List South Kerry	No internal waiting list in operation			0	0	8
Psychology Waiting List North Kerry	No internal waiting list in operation			0	No internal waiting list in operation As no qualified Psychologist in post	

PLANS IN PLACE TO ADDRESS WAITING LISTS

Kerry Primary Care Child, Adolescent & Family Psychology Service

Significant work is currently underway to enhance access to psychology service in Kerry within Primary Care

- Advancing recruitment to fill all allocated vacancies to the Kerry Primary Care Psychology Service
 - 1 x Senior Psychologist – Filled; 1 x Staff Grade – Filled; 1 x Senior Psychologist (Uplift from Staff Grade) – Awaiting Fill in coming weeks;
 - 1 x Psychology Assistant – Filled; 1 x Psychology Assistant – Vacant
- A request has been made to enhance service via budget estimate with a proposal to increase the WTE allocation to Primary Care Psychology Services to achieve a baseline level of staffing per Community Healthcare Network area (for example, 1 x Senior; 1 x Staff Grade; 1 x Psychology Assistant for CHN1; 2 & 3)
- National Primary Care Funding was allocated to HSE South West mid-year 2025 to initiate waiting list initiatives to increase access to psychological intervention for children and young people on existing primary care waiting lists. Kerry Primary Care Psychology is at an advanced stage in setting up grant aid agreements with a number of voluntary/community partner organisations across Kerry to recruit suitably qualified mental health clinicians/counsellors/psychotherapists to engage with 'in-reach' waiting list initiative to address mental health / psychological needs of children and young people on the PC Psychology waitlist. These waiting list initiatives (WLI's) will commence from 15th September 2025 and continue initially through Quarter 4 of 2025. Confirmation of further funding into 2026 is awaited and the partner organisations and therapists are open to continuing the WLI projects. It is envisaged that up to 100 children will be removed from the waiting list, with the majority of these offered primary care level psychological



intervention (6 – 10 sessions) by allocated therapists by year end through the WLI. Core Primary Care Child, Adolescent & Family Psychology Service staff will allocate & monitor the WLI inputs and will continue to impact waiting list alongside WLI therapists.

Kerry CAMHS (Psychology)

1. Kerry CAMHS has appointed a Principal Psychologist who supports the governance of CAMHS Psychologists in Kerry and Specialist regional services such as CAREDs and Eist Linn, in addition to working 0.5 clinically in the South Kerry team.
2. HSE has successfully filled a permanent Senior Grade post in South Kerry with the appointee due to start in February 2025 (post maternity leave). There is also have a Psychology Assistant starting in October 2025.
3. In North Kerry, HSE has recently filled a permanent Senior Grade post with the appointee due to start in October 2025, subject to the recruitment process. There is also a Psychology Assistant starting on 15th September. A trainee Clinical Psychologist is due to commence in September 2025. A Staff Grade Psychologist post has been offered to a national and local panel in the past 12 months and has been unable to fill. It will go to a new Staff Grade Psychologist national panel, which will go live in late September 2025.
4. Given the critical needs for psychological support and the dearth of qualified psychologists in Kerry, psychology management has worked in partnership with Southwest Counselling Services to offer in-reach psychotherapy sessions. The Principal Psychologist Specialist currently supervises 2 therapists (each 1.5 days) to offer specific interventions to young people under her governance and supervision. Although not replacing the need for a professionally trained psychologist, it is providing some access to psychological support services while we continue our efforts at recruitment. Every avenue is being explored to optimise access to psychology in the Kerry area at present.

KERRY CDNTs (Psychology)

Disability Services continue to work to optimise access to psychology services. Recruitment is ongoing within the section 38 and 39 agencies to fill any vacant positions. There continue to be challenges with recruitment, given supply shortages nationally and internationally. Disability Service has funded 2 training posts in UCC for the HSE South West region in 2025.

HSE South West has funded 18 training places for 2025 across doctoral programmes in both UCC and Mary Immaculate College. A total of 45 trainees will graduate from these programmes funded by the HSE South West region by 2028. HSE South West remain fully committed to filling all vacant posts and increasing access to psychological services in the coming years with the appointment of graduates from these professional training schemes

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Flynn

Regional Director of Psychology

HSE South West