



CÚRAM SLÁINTE POBAIL
CORCAIGH CIARRAÍ
CORK KERRY
COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE

Information about the North Kerry CAMHS Lookback Review





1. Why am I getting this letter?

The HSE has decided to review the care received by children and young people who attended North Kerry Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

We are starting by reviewing the care of all children and young people who were under the care of North Kerry CAMHS on November 21st 2022. This means a review team will review files which were open with North Kerry CAMHS on November 21st 2022.

We are writing to you to let you know that your file/your child's file will be reviewed by a team of experts.

2. What is a Lookback Review?

When things go wrong, the HSE has a system of reviewing what happened.

This is called "The HSE Incident Management Framework".

A Lookback Review, under the Lookback Review Policy 2022, is one of the ways of examining what happened

It allows us to explain what happened to the people affected. It also allows HSE staff to learn from what happened.



3. **Why is this happening?**

We asked a group of CAMHS experts to do a random audit of files at North Kerry CAMHS.

We did this audit because we wanted to be sure the care at North Kerry CAMHS was the right care.

A random audit means that we picked some files randomly and asked experts to read those files. We asked them to see if the care given to the young people was the right care.

The team of experts who did the random audit found some things that worried us and that is why we are doing a full review.

4. **Who is doing the review of files?**

Dr Colette Halpin will carry out the review along with a team of independent CAMHS Consultants.

Dr Colette Halpin is an experienced Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist. She has worked in CAMHS in Ireland and in Australia. Dr Halpin has extensive involvement with the College of Psychiatrists of Ireland and the Royal College of Psychiatrists, UK.

5. When will you tell me what you find out about me/my child?

We are at the start of this Review process. This means that independent CAMHS consultants will review all files which were open at North Kerry CAMHS on November 21st 2022.

Because there are so many files involved, this will take many months. The review team will work through the files as quickly as they can, but at the same time they must do a comprehensive review.

We expect that we will be able to write to you with more information towards the end of the year.

If the review team finds anything in your / your child's records that they are very worried about and which needs to be fixed straight away, then a doctor, nurse or other healthcare professional will contact you immediately. We will not wait until the end of the review to do this.

At all times during the review, the HSE will adhere to the principles of data protection set out in the General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Acts.

6. What do you mean when you say my file will be reviewed?

The team of CAMHS consultant doctors will work on this review. These doctors do not work in Kerry CAMHS.

One of the consultant doctors will carefully review your file and decide if you got the correct care. This decision will then be discussed by the team of CAMHS consultants to ensure that there is agreement by a body of expert opinion. This will be led by Dr Colette Halpin.



7. If there is an issue with my child's care, will they get compensation? How can we apply for this?

When the Review Team is finished their work, we will write to everyone and let them know what the review found in their files. We do not expect that there will be issues in everyone's care.

If the review finds serious issues in your care, we will apologise to you. We will do this in a letter, and also at a meeting called an Open Disclosure meeting. We will also work with you to put appropriate supports in place for you. Any decision about compensation will be made by the Government.

8. Will I be told when you are reviewing my file?

No.

We are reviewing all current files of everyone under the care of North Kerry CAMHS on November 21st 2022.

We will be in touch with everyone at the end of the process, unless the review team finds something that needs to be changed immediately.



9. **I have questions about the care my child is receiving right now?**

If you have questions about your child's ongoing treatment or care, you can talk about this at your next CAMHS appointment. You can also talk to your GP.

If you are now an adult and under the care of an adult mental health team, you can talk to that team.

At any stage, if you are in crisis, or your child is in crisis, you can:

- talk to your GP.
- talk to North Kerry CAMHS
- contact SouthDoc on 0818 355 999 if your GP is not open.
- go to the nearest emergency department.

If you have other questions, you can ring an information line on **1800-742-800**.

The information line is open between 9am and 5pm Monday- Friday.

10. **Should I/my child stop taking any medication that we are worried about?**

No.

Please do not stop taking your medication (or do not allow your child to stop taking medication) without first asking the advice of your doctor.



11. **Will we be called to a meeting?**

If the team reviewing files finds concerns with your care/your child's care, then you will be invited to a meeting. This is called an Open Disclosure meeting.

At that meeting, we will explain to you what the review team found, and what happens next. You will be able to ask questions, and we will give you as much information as we can.

12. **It is a long time since I/my child was seen by CAMHS. Do I need to ask for an appointment to discuss this?**

You do not need to contact CAMHS unless there is something that is worrying you right now about your child's mental health.

13. **I am worried about my other children, but haven't gotten a letter yet about them.**

The review is starting by looking at the care of children who were under the care of North Kerry CAMHS on November 21st 2022 (this means those who were active CAMHS patients on November 21st, 2022).

When this review is complete we will be looking at the care received by children in the past. We will first look at the care of current patients. We will use what we learn in this first phase to help us carry out the next phase of the review.



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What to do if you need support

- Contact the Kerry CAMHS information line on 1800 742 800 from Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm.
- Contact the North Kerry CAMHS team on 066 7104857
- If you are in crisis, contact the team or your GP.
- If it's out of hours and you cannot contact the team or your GP, contact South Doc on 0818 355 999 or a hospital emergency department.
- Any updates will be available on [hse.ie/northkerrycamhsreview](https://www.hse.ie/northkerrycamhsreview)

