

28th March, 2024

Mr. Donnchadh Ó'Laoghaire, T.D.,
 Dáil Éireann,
 Dublin 2

PQ ref 47781/23

“To ask the Minister for Health the current number of children and adolescents on the waiting-lists of the south Lee primary care services and the north Lee primary care services in excess of one, two, three, four or more years, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Ó'Laoghaire,

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 wish to advise the following:

Children & Adolescents on Waiting lists	South Lee as at Jan 2024				North Lee			
	South Lee > 1 yr	South Lee > 2 yrs	South Lee > 3 yrs	South Lee > 4 yrs	North Lee > 1 yr	North Lee > 2 yrs	North Lee > 3 yrs	North Lee > 4 yrs
Occupational Therapy	219	0	0	0	463	0	0	0
Physiotherapy	374	0	0	0	226	0	0	0
Speech & Language Therapy	179	0	0	0	658	0	0	0
Dietetics	47	0	0	0	330	71	0	0
Psychology	462	366	116	51	421	353	76	0

There has been significant work undertaken with respect to reducing the overall waiters in this category across Cork and Kerry over the past year whereby we have seen a reduction of circa 34% of the overall figures waiting, however the increase in growth has also soared for example psychology is presently witnessing a 30% increase on growth in referrals.

I acknowledge that this timeframe listed in the table above for such a service is less than desirable, and I apologise for same. This is as a consequence to a number of factors including a growth in demand for services, a significant reduction in capacity for diagnostics assessment and also the implications of

resource deficit due to both historical and the present recruitment embargo. Efforts to increase resources throughout and reduce waiting times are indeed our top priority. We are actively working on strategies to address resources allocation, validation of waiting lists, streamlining processes and optimising existing workloads, ultimately working towards providing timely access for all to services.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Priscilla Lynch', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Priscilla Lynch
Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare