

26th March, 2024

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

PQ ref 47783/23

"To ask the Minister for Health the number of children removed from the assessment of need waiting-list in each of the Cork and Kerry primary care psychology services for each month from 1 October 2022, in tabular form; the length of time the child was waiting for an AON in each case and the process of clinical decision-making involved; 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.

Breakdown attached where possible, please be advised that data is not recorded in the format you have requested.

I acknowledge that this timeframe 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,



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