



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta
Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte

Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin, Baile
Phámar,

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Deputy Róisín Shortall.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

14th February 2024

PQ Number: 48586/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on a waiting list for counselling services by CHO, age category and time waiting, in tabular form. -Róisín Shortall

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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.

Please be advised that the data contained in this response has been received directly from the HSE's National Counselling Service and Counselling in Primary Care [CIPC]. It does not include other counselling services available in the CHOs. The HSE's National Counselling Service provides counselling for adults who have experienced childhood abuse [CAPA] and Counselling in Primary Care [CIPC].

Latest available data¹ for the number of persons on the waiting list for HSE Counselling services is provided in Tables 1 and 2 below by CHO area and time waiting.

The number of people waiting for CAPA at the end of August 2023 was 847 this is in the context of a 20% increase in referrals on the same period in 2022 [1708 referrals in 2023 compared with 1420 referrals at end of August 2022]. 71% of people are waiting 6 months or less for counselling.

The number of people waiting for CIPC at end of August 2023 was 4,406 this is in the context of a 16% increase in total referrals when compared with the same period in 2022 [Number of referrals Jan-Aug 2023 - 13,508; 2022 11,675] 52% of clients are waiting less than 3 months for counselling.

Waiting times for the HSE's National Counselling Service [CAPA and CIPC] vary across the country depending on referral rates, service delivery model, staffing levels and individual geographic factors. The NCS is a demand led service with the counselling contract offered based on the assessed needs of the client. As the number of clients seeking counselling exceeds the number of counselling spaces available at any one time there is a waiting time for counselling.

¹ Due to the ongoing Forsa action National data is currently only available up to the end of August 2023



Table 1
Number of persons waiting for CAPA [Counselling and Psychotherapy for childhood Abuse] at 31 August 2023

CAPA	LHO	Waiting >1 Month	>1<3 Mths	>3 <6 Months	> 6 Mths	Total
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	2.0	2.0	3.0	0.0	
	Donegal	2.0	10.0	10.0	6.0	
	Sligo Leitrim	2.0	3.0	3.0	2.0	
	Total	6.0	15.0	16.0	8.0	45.0
CHO2	Galway	2.0	11.0	10.0	92.0	
	Mayo	0.0	3.0	9.0	8.0	
	Roscommon	1.0	0.0	2.0	12.0	
	Total	3.0	14.0	21.0	112.0	150.0
CHO 3	Clare	0.0	2.0	3.0	0.0	
	Limerick	1.0	7.0	1.0	1.0	
	North Tipp East Limerick	1.0	0.0	3.0	1.0	
	Total	2.0	9.0	7.0	2.0	20.0
CHO 4	Kerry	6.0	12.0	2.0	0.0	
	North Cork	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
	North Lee	6.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	
	South Lee	14.0	17.0	21.0	21.0	
	West Cork	3.0	2.0	1.0	0.0	
	Total	29.0	36.0	29.0	26.0	120.0
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	1.0	7.0	11.0	3.0	
	South Tipperary	2.0	2.0	5.0	0.0	
	Waterford	2.0	11.0	14.0	2.0	
	Wexford	2.0	3.0	7.0	0.0	
	Total	7.0	23.0	37.0	5.0	72.0
CHO 6	Dublin South East	5.0	9.0	2.0	1.0	
	Dun Laoghaire	5.0	16.0	1.0	1.0	
	Wicklow	2.0	6.0	10.0	4.0	
	Total	12.0	31.0	13.0	6.0	62.0
CHO 7	Dublin South City	5.0	9.0	0.0	0.0	
	Dublin South West	0.0	13.0	15.0	2.0	
	Dublin West	2.0	6.0	19.0	4.0	
	Kildare West Wicklow	10.0	11.0	20.0	0.0	
	Total	17.0	39.0	54.0	6.0	116.0
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	2.0	16.0	16.0	7.0	
	Longford Westmeath	3.0	22.0	12.0	1.0	
	Louth	1.0	9.0	15.0	2.0	
	Meath	7.0	7.0	7.0	10.0	
	Total	13.0	54.0	50.0	20.0	137.0
CHO 9	Dublin North	3.0	7.0	12.0	14.0	
	Dublin North Central	4.0	12.0	11.0	30.0	
	Dublin North West	1.0	4.0	11.0	16.0	
	Total	8.0	23.0	34.0	60.0	125.0
National Total		97.0	244.0	261.0	245.0	847.0



Table 2
Number of persons waiting for CIPC [Counselling in Primary Care] at 31 August 2023

CIPC	LHO	Waiting >1 Month	>1<3 Mths	>3 <6 Months	> 6 Mths	Total
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	23	46	56	43	
	Donegal	49	98	57	15	
	Sligo Leitrim	13	16	59	82	
	Total	85	160	172	140	557
CHO 2	Galway	8	30	38	63	
	Mayo	5	17	24	16	
	Roscommon	1	9	5	9	
	Total	14	56	67	88	225
CHO 3	Clare	9	41	28	8	
	Limerick	16	63	39	28	
	North Tipperary East Limerick	6	25	27	16	
	Total	31	129	94	52	306
CHO 4	Kerry	38	43	12	2	
	North Cork	15	40	26	1	
	North Lee	31	83	56	4	
	South Lee	34	47	45	5	
	West Cork	7	18	9	1	
	Total	115	231	148	13	507
	CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	14	59	79	28
South Tipperary		4	33	40	11	
Waterford		17	66	76	17	
Wexford		17	66	74	28	
Total		52	224	259	84	619
CHO 6	Dublin South East	16	34	24	0	
	Dun Laoghaire	18	41	27	1	
	Wicklow	24	41	9	0	
	Total	58	116	60	1	235
CHO 7	Dublin South City	13	9	21	14	
	Dublin South West	17	25	64	20	
	Dublin West	29	18	24	13	
	Kildare West Wicklow	46	23	94	22	
	Total	105	75	203	69	452
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	24	140	50	18	
	Longford Westmeath	39	83	69	28	
	Louth	15	72	89	18	
	Meath	6	88	94	16	
	Total	84	383	302	80	849
CHO 9	Dublin North	48	126	98	8	
	Dublin North Central	43	89	66	1	
	Dublin North West	28	50	85	4	
	Total	119	265	249	13	646
National Total		663	1639	1564	540	4406

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Mc Cusker
General Manager
National Mental Health Services