

28th March, 2024

Mr. Alan Kelly, T.D.,
 Dáil Éireann,
 Dublin 2

PQ ref 56441/23

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of face-to-face clinical appointments offered by each senior clinical psychologist in the south Lee child and adolescent primary care psychology service at the end of each month in 2023; the number of staff reporting to each senior clinical psychologist at the end of each month of 2023; and the number of people on the waiting-list of the service for each month of 2023, in tabular form.”

Dear Deputy Kelly,

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.

The Primary Care psychology team offers a range of interventions both direct and indirect. These are delivered by a team involving senior psychologist, staff grade psychologist and psychology assistants.

Data is not captured by grade. Accordingly in line with our current systems we can guide the number of children seen in South Lee for each month in 2023 and the numbers waiting.

Month	No. Seen (new & existing)	No. Waiting
Jan	47	1321
Feb	70	1312
Mar	83	1403
Apr	65	1502
May	84	1466
June	88	1628
July	56	1716
Aug	36	1669
Sept	59	1712
Oct	66	1625
Nov	55	1694
Dec	28	1582

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Priscilla Lynch', with a large, stylized initial 'P'.

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