



7th August 2024

Deputy Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 33612/24

“To ask the Minister for Health the current waiting list for CAMHS services in County Cork, by area; the average waiting time; and his plans to address this.”

Dear Deputy Ó Laoghaire,

The Health Service Executive have been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted for the Minister for Health for a response.

Team	Total Waiting	<= 3Mths	>3<=6 Mths	>6<=9 Mths	>9<=12 Mths	>12<=15 Mths	>15<=18 Mths	>18 Mths
Cork North Central	59	12	14	15	15	3	0	0
North Cork	197	27	28	31	38	18	10	45
South Lee / West Cork	79	16	29	11	7	11	5	0
Average	111.66	18.33	23.66	19	20	10.66	5	15

We regret that young people cannot always access the CAMHS service as quickly as they or we would like. Recruitment challenges have faced several CAMHS teams in Cork Kerry Community Healthcare which, in turn, has affected waiting time targets. Recruitment effort at Local, national, and international levels are continuing in order to ensure that all available avenues are explored to provide a staffing for CAMHS services in order to improve access to services and reduce wait times..

A dedicated ADHD team has been developed to address those waiting longest for access to CAMHS ADHD supports across Cork and Kerry. This team accept referrals from community CAMHS teams for young people waiting longest for access to ADHD supports. Since its introduction in late 2023, 107 young people have been seen by this team.

Other pilot initiatives include telemedicine clinics, which have been developed in the North Cork CAMHS team to increase access and capacity, which in turn, will help to address the waiting lists for that area.

A comprehensive wait list validation exercise has also been completed by our North Cork team, which will be reflected in the waiting list figures going forward. It is planned that the efficacy of these initiatives in addressing waitlists will be reviewed and introduced to all CKCH CAMHS teams.

We wish to reassure young people and their families that urgent cases are responded to on a priority basis, often within 24 to 48 hours. Referrals to CAMHS are prioritised according to their acuity and severity.



In a crisis situation, we would urge the service user to engage with their GP, Southdoc, or present to the nearest emergency department, where necessary support will be available.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vincent Goggin', written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Vincent Goggin
Acting Head of Service
Mental Health Services
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare