



Office of the Assistant National Director  
Access and Integration

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Oifig an Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta Cúnta  
Rochtain agus Comhtháthú: Seirbhísí  
Meabhairshláinte FSS

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Deputy Holly Cairns,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

11th December 2024

**PQ Number: 45285/24**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the provision of dietetic services to child and adolescent mental health services nationally; and for a breakdown of which services have access to a dietician on a regular or full-time basis. -Holly Cairns**

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Dear Deputy Cairns,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in response to the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) provide specialist mental health services to those aged up to 18 years, who have reached the threshold for a diagnosis of **moderate to severe mental health disorder**. CAMHS teams are multi-disciplinary in nature. This means that they are made up of a range of disciplines with different skills and perspectives, so that children and adolescents can be offered a care and treatment package that addresses their individual clinical needs. CAMHS teams may consist of a range of professionals including psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, nurses, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, social care workers, administrators, team coordinators, dieticians and other therapists as required. The precise number of mental health professionals on a CAMHS team vary according to the particular requirements of the sector population and within the available resources.

As per the latest HSE Workforce Report for October 2024, which is the most recent data available, there are 24 WTE (Whole Time Equivalent) dieticians working across HSE Mental Health Services covering adult mental health services and CAMHS.

Please see latest report here: [mental-health-employment-report-oct-2024.pdf](#)

### **Community CAMHS Teams**

Currently there are 77 CAMHS teams nationwide. The table below provides detail on the number of Community CAMHS Teams dieticians in each region.



Region	CAMHS Dietitian WTE
CHO 1 – Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan and Monaghan	1.5
CHO 2 – Galway, Roscommon and Mayo	2.7
CHO 3 – Limerick, Clare and North Tipperary	0
CHO 4 – Kerry and Cork	0.5
CHO 5 – South Tipperary, Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford	0
CHO 6 - Wicklow, Dun Laoghaire, Dublin South East	1
CHO 7 - Kildare/West Wicklow, Dublin West, Dublin South City, Dublin South West	1
CHO 8 - Laois/Offaly, Longford/Westmeath, Louth/Meath.	0
CHO 9 - Dublin North, Dublin North Central, Dublin North West.	1
<b>Total No. of Community CAMHS Dietitian WTE</b>	<b>7.7</b>

There are no specialist CAMHS dietitians in CHO3, CHO5 and CHO8. Some CAMHS teams in CHO4, CHO5 have arrangements in place to privately fund dietitians who work outside of the CAMHS team. CHO3 intends to employ a locum CAMHS dietitian in January 2025.

#### **National Clinical Programmes for Eating Disorders: Specialist Eating Disorder CAMHS Teams**

In January 2018, the HSE published a National Model of Care for Eating Disorders (MOC) in partnership with College of Psychiatrists' of Ireland and Bodywhys.

Key recommendations in the MOC include:

- the development of a national network of dedicated eating disorder teams embedded within the mental health service
- a stepped model of outpatient, day patient and inpatient care provision based on clinical need
- the development of a skilled, trained workforce

The NCPED aims to establish an ED network (8 adult teams and 8 CAMHS teams) in accordance with the agreed Model of Care 2018.

Currently, four specialist eating disorder CAMHS teams have fulltime access to a CAMHS dietitian (CHO2, SJOG/CHO 6 CAMHS, Linn Dara/CHO7 CAMHS and CHO 9 CAMHS) as of December 2024. Funding has been approved from Budget 2025 for one senior dietician post for CHO4 CAMHS Eating Disorders team. A new CAMHS Eating Disorders team has been funded for 2025 for Mid-West, and this includes a senior dietitian post.

Further information and link to the HSE Workforce reports is available here:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/our-workforce/workforce-reporting/workforce-reporting-by-care-group.html>

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

**Sarah Hennessy**  
**General Manager**

**Access and Integration: HSE Child and Youth Mental Health Office**