

30th January, 2025

Mr. Padraig O'Sullivan, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 1674/25

"To ask the Minister for Health the psychology waiting list numbers and wait times in months for children and adolescents in Cork North Lee, in each of the years 2020 to 2024, in tabular form; the efforts being made to reduce these times; and if he will make a statement on the matter".

Dear Deputy O'Sullivan,

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 Service in Cork North consists of two teams who provide a service to children and adolescents from 0-18 years of age in the North Lee and North Cork areas. The North Lee team is based in Blackpool and St. Mary's Primary Care Centre and the North Cork team is based in Mallow Primary Care Centre. The adult primary care service is provided by two staff grade psychologists, one in North Lee, based in Teach Mhuire in Mayfield and one in North Cork, based in Mallow Primary Healthcare Centre.

Year	Number on waitlist	Length of time waiting in months
2020	435	43 waiting 57 months
2021	645	288 waiting 48 months
2022	901	375 waiting 36 months
2023	1362	593 waiting 24 months
2024	1905	606 waiting 12.5 months

Service improvements and efficiencies are in progress since the appointment of a Psychology Manager in November 2024. Work is being progressed to address the staff vacancy rate across the two services. We have increased capacity to provide placements for Psychologists in clinical training with 4 placements from a total capacity of 5 in progress for 2025. 1WTE assistant psychologist was recruited in Mallow in January 25, with a further 2WTE assistant psychologist staff with start dates Feb/April 2025.

Primary care psychological interventions in North Cork are currently being offered to those waitlisted including: a group based psychological parenting intervention, online bibliotherapy sessions, and psychologist delivered webinars providing psychoeducation (in progress).

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mari O'Donovan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a distinct 'O'.

Mari O'Donovan
Interim Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare