



Deputy Mark Ward,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Date of issue: 05.12.2023
Today's date: 26.02.2024

PQ Number: 51608/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health for an update on waiting lists for adult ADHD services, per CHO, in tabular form; what efforts are being taken to reduce these waiting times; if those in catchment areas without adult ADHD services in place can access services in surrounding CHO areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Mark Ward

Dear Deputy Ward,

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.

The waiting lists together with other relevant data on staffing and clinical activity is shown in the table below.

Adult ADHD Services: Activity and Waiting lists 2023

Services are listed in order of establishments.

Team	Staffing			Clinical Capacity	Referrals accepted YTD	Referrals assessed YTD	Number waiting	Estimated waiting time
	Admin	Clinical WTE	WTE Approved					
CHO1 Sligo/Leitrim/Donegal ¹	1	1.5	2.5	60%	197	87	336	2 years
CHO6 Dublin SE/Wicklow NS	1	3	4	75%	448	143	470	3.5 - 4 years
CHO3 Limerick/Clare/N. Tipp	1	2	5	40%	123	128	147	1.5 years
CHO4 Kerry/West Cork ¹	0.5	1.5	2.5	60%	293	184	149	1 year
CHO4 Cork City/NE Cork ²	1	3	4	75%	270	124	146	1 year

WTE- Whole time equivalent

YTD- Year to date

1 Most posts 0.5 WTE in line with adult population

2 Service operational since April 2023

The waiting times vary from just under one year to up to 4 years.

Efforts taken to reduce these waiting times are:

1. Funding of €106,000 allocated to CHO6 for a waiting list initiative. The service was unable to recruit the staff for this unfortunately.
2. The very recent introduction of GP referral forms in CHOs 1,3,6 to both inform GPs who is likely to benefit from referral to these specialist services and also to assist services in more efficient triage of referrals. CHO4 Cork had introduced a GP referral form when it started in April 2023.
3. The Clinical Lead is developing a stepped care approach. This is well established with ADHD Ireland. A proposal has been submitted to HSE Disability Strategy to develop a Neurodiversity Hub in each CHO so GPs can refer to this hub in the first instance for assessment of possible ADHD together with consideration of whether other neurodiverse conditions such as Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) are present. It is envisaged that those with milder ADHD will have their needs met by a combination of this Hub response and ADHD Ireland. It will also ensure those who are autistic are not by default referred to the Adult ADHD Services because of the current absence of a response at Disability/ Primary Care level.

Given these waiting times and the significant unmet need which is a consequence of no public ADHD Services for Adults in Ireland, there is no capacity to accept referrals from areas currently not funded by the Department of Health for an Adult ADHD Service.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Amir Niazi

National Clinical Advisor & Group Lead for Mental Health Clinical Design and Innovation

Health Service Executive