

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR CHILDREN AND EDUCATION  
BY THE CONNÉTABLE OF ST. JOHN  
QUESTION SUBMITTED ON MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2021  
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2021**

**Question**

Will the Minister state the average waiting list time, in days, for patients referred to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (C.A.M.H.S.) for each month between January 2018 and September 2021?

**Answer**

The table below shows the average waiting list time and includes children and young people referred for neuro-developmental assessment, along with those referred to CAMHS.

	Waiting list time in days			
	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>January</b>	13	59	55	23
<b>February</b>	22	64	71	11
<b>March</b>	25	45	46	26
<b>April</b>	38	31	37	20
<b>May</b>	40	25	19	26
<b>June</b>	19	27	31	33
<b>July</b>	18	26	14	42
<b>August</b>	30	46	28	47
<b>September</b>	37	55	21	20
<b>October</b>	34	48	17	
<b>November</b>	41	55	18	
<b>December</b>	40	52	29	

Existing data shows the number of days from when a referral is received to when the initial assessment is completed on the system.

Referrals are triaged upon arrival to CAMHS and many initial contacts occur quickly with input from CAMHS practitioners, that lead to initial assessment reports.

There is now a CAMHS Duty and Assessment team that screen all referrals and provide input the same day if indicated. As part of the CAMHS redesign there will be additional investment in the Duty and Assessment Team and specialist CAMHS to address increasing referrals to the service.

As part of the CAMHS redesign and improvement to CAMHS data, we are exploring being able to capture referral to initial contact / case opening data which will provide a clearer picture of the speed of input.

Future data also needs to separate referrals for neurodevelopmental assessments from referrals for Mental Health concerns, given different time scales for both, an average set of data does not distinguish between.