



**21st November 2018**

Mr. Tommy Broughan, TD.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2.

Email: [tommy.broughan@oireachtas.ie](mailto:tommy.broughan@oireachtas.ie)

**Re: 21483 PQ 46953/18 Waiting Lists for Early Intervention Services**

**\* To ask the Minister for Health his plans to reduce the waiting list for early intervention services in north County Dublin; if his attention has been drawn to the fact that children have been waiting up to 26 months to be assessed, and if he will make a statement on the matter**

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Dear Deputy,

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 current longest waiting time for children to access services from the Early Intervention Team in North County Dublin is up to 32 months. There is a high demand for Early Intervention Services in the area. CHO Dublin North City and County are working proactively with the National Disability Office to address these issues.

There are a growing number of local factors driving this demand, namely the increasing child population and growth in terms of the children presenting with complex needs. I understand each parents' priority is for their child and I empathise with their frustration.

CHO Dublin North City and County are working proactively with the HSE National Disability Office in an effort to address waiting times for access to Early Intervention Services in this area and has commenced the recruitment process for one of each of the following posts: Psychology, Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy, Physiotherapy and Social Work. It is anticipated the commencement of these individuals in post from early 2019 will assist in the reduction of waiting times for early intervention services across the area.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

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**Mairead Lyons**  
Head of Service - Social Care