



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Social Care  
South East Community Healthcare  
c/o Community Care Headquarters  
James' Green

Kilkenny

Telephone 353 56 7784600  
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15<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Ms Margaret Murphy O'Mahony T.D.  
Dail Eireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin

**PQ 15961/19**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of children waiting for assessment by early intervention teams in each LHO are in CHO 5 at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019; and the number waiting 0 to 3, 3 to 6, 6 to 9, 9 to 12, 12 to 18, 18 to 24 and more than 24 months, respectively.**

Dear Deputy Murphy O'Mahony

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for a response.

*I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.*

The disability services in the South East Community Healthcare (SECH) area provide a range of multidisciplinary supports and services for children with disability including Early Intervention (0-6 years) and School Age Services (6-18 years).

There have been significant year on year increases in the number of children applying for assessment including Autism Disorder Spectrum and all disability services which has led to delays in timeframes. It is acknowledged that given increased referral rates and demands for assessments and interventions by the Disability Services, there is a requirement for additional resources to meet current need.

The HSE are currently engaged in a reconfiguration of existing therapy resources to geographic based teams for children (0-18yrs), which is supported by a National Coordinating Group. The objective of the new model of assessment and intervention is to provide one clear referral pathway for all children (0-18's), irrespective of their disability, where they live or the school they attend, and will be implemented on a phased basis. The SECH are in the process of developing their implementation plan for reconfiguration and during this time the Early Intervention services will remain in place.

All referrals are wait- listed and prioritised according to date of referral and clinical need of the client. The operational structures of Early Intervention (EI) services vary throughout the region and some waiting lists are not specific to disability services but service users are on a paediatric waiting list. Carlow/Kilkenny EI team have not completely reconfigured their EI team and each individual disciplines manages their waiting list. The total number on the wait list for autism specific disorder

(ASD) assessment is outlined below. In Waterford each therapy is discipline specific and the waiting list for early intervention is a combined primary care and disability list. However they also can provide data on those waiting in ASD assessment. The table below demonstrates the waiting lists in a format in which the data is currently available and routinely collected.

Numbers Waiting Assessment	Carlow/Kilkenny	Wexford	South Tipperary	Waterford
	66 (ASD only)	160	149	28 (ASD only)

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

Yours sincerely,



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**Patricia McEvoy**  
**General Manager, Disability Service-South East Community Healthcare**