



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

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Disability Services/Community Operations,
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23rd April 2019

Deputy Louise O'Reilly,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
e-mail: louise.oreilly@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary question, which was submitted to this department for response.

PQ 16466/19

To ask the Minister for Health the number of children and adults, respectively waiting for initial speech and language therapy assessment at 31 March 2019 by CHO and LHO area in tabular form; the comparative figure as at 31 March 2018; and if he will make a statement on the matter .

HSE Response

Speech and Language Therapy Services are provided through Primary Care Teams in Community Healthcare Organisations to children and young people requiring assessment, diagnosis and treatment of speech, language and communication difficulties and feeding and swallowing difficulties.

Primary Care Operations has compiled the data for Speech and language waiting lists and have provided the most recently available data to answer this query. Please note that as Q1 data to the end of March 2019 is not available until after 25th April, the data provided for 2019 is to the end of February 2019. The tables in the attached appendices give the following information

- Appendix 1 attached shows the number of children aged 0 to 17 years and 11 months awaiting speech and language Initial assessment at the end of February 2019.
- Appendix 2 attached shows the number of adults aged 18 years and over awaiting speech and language Initial assessment at the end of February 2019.
- Appendix 3 attached shows the number of children aged 0 to 17 years and 11 months awaiting speech and language initial assessment at the end of March 2018.
- Appendix 3 attached shows the number of adults aged 18 years and over awaiting speech and language initial assessment at the end of March 2018.

The HSE is aware of the numbers of children and adults waiting for therapy services and is fully cognisant of the stress this can cause to families. One of the key priorities for the HSE is to improve waiting times for therapy services by implementing a revised model of care for children's Speech and Language Therapy services and Psychology services and develop new models for Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy services.

In addition to the significant numbers of additional posts allocated to Primary Care and to Social Care under the Progressing Children's Disabilities Programme in recent years (see further details below), the HSE is committed to using innovative approaches, involving public, voluntary and private providers, to achieving a targeted reduction in therapy waiting lists.

The HSE is fully committed to working in partnership with service providers to achieve maximum benefits for children with complex needs, and aims to ensure that resources available are used in the most effective manner possible.

Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People (PDS)

The HSE is rolling out the Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People (PDS) Programme, which requires a reconfiguration of all current HSE and HSE funded children's disability services into geographically-based Children's Disability Network Teams (Early-Intervention and School-aged or 0-18 Teams). This Programme aims to achieve a national equitable approach in service provision for all children based on their individual need and regardless of their disability, where they live or where they go to school. Based on the recommendations of the Report of the National Reference Group on Multidisciplinary Services for Children aged 5-18 Years (2009), its objectives are:

- ✓ One clear pathway to services providing equity of access for all children with disabilities, according to their need.
- ✓ Effective teams working with partnership with parents and Education to support children in achieving their potential.
- ✓ Available resources used to the optimum benefit for children and their families.

Current Status:

Fifty six Children's Disability Teams have already been established with a further eighty two Children's Disability Network Teams to be reconfigured from existing services in 2019. However, and in light of Health reform which seeks to have "Networks" in place, HSE is well underway in terms of establishing a total of 96 Children's Disability Networks across each of the nine CHOs. A key enabler to establishment of the remaining Children's Disability Network Teams is the recruitment of the Children's Disability Network Managers. These posts were advertised on 19th November 2018. It is envisaged that the Children's Disability Network Managers will be in place in Q2 2019.

Please note that **all** HSE Areas planning reconfiguration continue to have significant Early Intervention and School Age Services in place, provided either directly by the HSE, or by voluntary service providers funded by the HSE, such as Enable Ireland, Kare, Muriosa Foundation, St. John of God Services, Brothers of Charity Services, St. Michael's House, Cope Foundation, CRC, Daughters of Charity Services etc.

Additional funding for Therapeutic services across both Disability and Primary Care

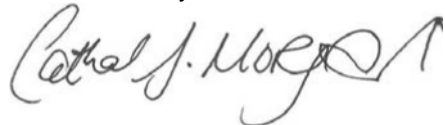
NSP 2019 has provided for an additional 100 new therapy posts to be implemented by end 2019 (Note: 2.5m granted in 2019, therefore the posts have to be implemented in a gradual way) over 2019/ 2020 to the Children's Disability networks. This is additional to existing resources in this area as follows:

- The above should be considered in light of previous investment secured by the HSE for therapeutic services has been invested in the Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People (0-18s) Programme (PDS). Since 2014, the roll out of the PDS has entailed targeted investment of €14m and the provision of 275 additional therapy staff, to increase services for children with all disabilities.
- In 2013, additional funding of €20m was provided to strengthen primary care services. This comprised over €18.5m for the recruitment of over 260 primary care team posts and over €1.4m to support community intervention team development.
- There was also a €4m allocation within the 2016 Service Plan to facilitate the recruitment of Speech and Language Therapists to address waiting lists as part of the overall Speech and Language Therapy waiting list initiative within Primary Care and Social Care. The allocation provides for an additional 83 posts.
- In addition, the recruitment of a further 40 posts in Occupational Therapy (OT) commenced in Quarter 4, 2018. Currently the OT Service Improvement Working Group is reviewing options pertaining to the allocation of posts across CHO Areas. This is being done in conjunction with the findings of the OT Service Improvement report for Primary Care.

However, additional resources are required. The Report on the Future Needs of Disability Services (April 2018) estimates an additional 400 posts are required to provide adequate staffing levels to meet the demand for children's

disability services and the HSE is working to address this. Budget 2019 has provided for a funding commitment to provide an additional 100 therapy posts specific to the Disability Network Teams to be established.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Cathal Morgan,
Head of Operations - Disability Services,
Community Operations



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APPENDIX 1

**Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Initial Assessment
February 2019**

LHO	0 to 4 Mths	4 months & 1 day - 8 months	8 months & 1 day - 12 months	12 months & 1 day - 18 months	18 months & 1 day to 24 months	>24 months	Total
Cavan Monaghan	294	91	4	0	0	0	389
Donegal	319	13	0	0	0	0	332
Sligo Leitrim	18	0	0	0	0	0	18
CHO1	631	104	4	0	0	0	739
Galway	393	39	14	0	0	0	446
Mayo	272	9	7	0	0	0	288
Roscommon	27	0	0	0	0	0	27
CHO2	692	48	21	0	0	0	761
Clare	127	22	5	0	0	0	154
Limerick	345	169	21	2	0	0	537
North Tipperary East Limerick	280	85	24	8	0	0	397
CHO3	752	276	50	10	0	0	1,088
Kerry	190	0	0	0	0	0	190
North Cork	189	11	0	0	0	0	200
North Lee	337	19	0	0	0	0	356
South Lee	355	2	0	0	0	0	357
West Cork	88	0	0	0	0	0	88
CHO4	1,159	32	0	0	0	0	1,191
Carlow Kilkenny	295	19	0	0	0	0	314
South Tipperary	187	18	0	0	0	0	205
Waterford	185	29	6	2	0	0	222
Wexford	327	285	185	82	0	0	879
CHO5	994	351	191	84	0	0	1,620
Dublin South East	147	3	8	9	4	0	171
Dun Laoghaire	147	3	8	9	4	0	171
Wicklow	6	10	18	0	0	0	34
CHO6	300	16	34	18	8	0	376
Dublin South City	157	65	60	19	6	0	307
Dublin South West	300	49	77	122	54	13	615
Dublin West	179	263	181	28	0	0	651
Kildare West Wicklow	392	191	0	0	0	0	583
CHO7	1,028	568	318	169	60	13	2,156
Laois Offaly	219	11	5	0	0	0	235
Longford Westmeath	293	96	15	0	0	0	404
Louth	365	0	0	0	0	0	365
Meath	226	138	69	35	7	0	475
CHO8	1,103	245	89	35	7	0	1,479
Dublin North	454	514	161	0	0	0	1,129
Dublin North Central	235	156	94	0	0	0	485
Dublin North West	305	207	100	12	0	0	624
CHO9	994	877	355	12	0	0	2,238
Total	7,653	2,517	1,062	328	75	13	11,648



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APPENDIX 2

Speech and Language Therapy - Number of patients aged 18 years and older awaiting Initial Assessment - February 2019

LHO	0 to 4 Mths	4 months & 1 day - 8 months	8 months & 1 day - 12 months	12 months & 1 day - 18 months	18 months & 1 day to 24 months	>24 months	Total
Cavan Monaghan	146	60	8	6	0	0	220
Donegal	214	27	14	15	16	55	341
Sligo Leitrim	109	10	2	0	0	0	121
CHO1	469	97	24	21	16	55	682
Galway	154	26	3	8	4	12	207
Mayo	8	0	3	2	0	0	13
Roscommon	25	3	1	1	0	0	30
CHO2	187	29	7	11	4	12	250
Clare	21	4	0	0	0	0	25
Limerick	32	0	0	0	0	0	32
North Tipperary East Limerick	11	0	0	0	0	0	11
CHO3	64	4	0	0	0	0	68
Kerry	44	0	0	0	0	0	44
North Cork	35	0	0	0	0	0	35
North Lee	10	0	0	0	0	0	10
South Lee	16	0	0	0	0	0	16
West Cork	10	0	0	0	0	0	10
CHO4	115	0	0	0	0	0	115
Carlow Kilkenny	89	26	0	0	0	0	115
South Tipperary	47	1	0	0	0	0	48
Waterford	46	8	0	0	0	0	54
Wexford	30	5	0	0	0	0	35
CHO5	212	40	0	0	0	0	252
Dublin South East	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dun Laoghaire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wicklow	229	45	-4	0	0	0	270
CHO6	229	45	-4	0	0	0	270
Dublin South City	38	56	17	0	0	0	111
Dublin South West	81	3	0	0	0	120	204
Dublin West	62	20	2	7	0	22	113
Kildare West Wicklow	31	0	0	0	0	0	31
CHO7	212	79	19	7	0	142	459
Laos Offaly	93	1	18	5	12	9	138
Longford Westmeath	98	18	4	0	0	0	120
Louth	58	36	0	0	0	0	94
Meath	351	150	86	74	48	0	709
CHO8	600	205	108	79	60	9	1,061
Dublin North	21	0	0	1	0	0	22
Dublin North Central	155	60	51	16	2	0	284
Dublin North West	133	75	40	0	0	0	248
CHO9	309	135	91	17	2	0	554
Total	2,397	634	245	135	82	218	3,711



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APPENDIX 3

Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Initial Assessment - March 2018

LHO	0 to 4 Mths	4 months & 1 day - 8 months	8 months & 1 day - 12 months	12 months & 1 day - 18 months	18 months & 1 day to 24 months	>24 months	Total
Cavan Monaghan	277	137	54	12	0	0	480
Donegal	325	0	0	0	0	0	325
Sligo Leitrim	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
CHO1	608	137	54	12	0	0	811
Galway	437	141	17	0	0	0	595
Mayo	229	13	0	0	0	0	242
Roscommon	57	0	0	0	0	0	57
CHO2	723	154	17	0	0	0	894
Clare	147	18	0	0	0	0	165
Limerick	366	132	4	0	0	0	502
North Tipperary East Limerick	288	36	16	0	0	0	340
CHO3	801	186	20	0	0	0	1,007
Kerry	192	5	0	0	0	0	197
North Cork	204	28	34	7	8	5	286
North Lee	316	37	0	0	0	0	353
South Lee	453	137	156	86	10	27	869
West Cork	92	14	14	0	0	0	120
CHO4	1,257	221	204	93	18	32	1,825
Carlow Kilkenny	258	3	0	0	0	0	261
South Tipperary	193	49	0	0	0	0	242
Waterford	230	22	0	0	0	0	252
Wexford	279	259	125	14	0	0	677
CHO5	960	333	125	14	0	0	1,432
Dublin South East	106	15	16	0	0	0	137
Dun Laoghaire	83	8	5	0	0	0	96
Wicklow	10	0	0	0	0	0	10
CHO6	199	23	21	0	0	0	243
Dublin South City	170	53	33	13	0	0	269
Dublin South West	293	195	49	45	33	40	655
Dublin West	182	221	77	9	0	0	489
Kildare West Wicklow	415	23	0	0	0	0	438
CHO7	1,060	492	159	67	33	40	1,851
Laois Offaly	182	0	0	0	0	0	182
Longford Westmeath	426	97	0	0	0	0	523
Louth	224	0	0	0	0	0	224
Meath	145	18	7	0	0	0	170
CHO8	977	115	7	0	0	0	1,099
Dublin North	475	285	7	0	0	0	767
Dublin North Central	226	124	2	0	0	0	352
Dublin North West	337	264	78	6	0	0	685
CHO9	1,038	673	87	6	0	0	1,804
Total	7,623	2,334	694	192	51	72	10,966



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APPENDIX 4

**Speech and Language Therapy - Number of patients aged 18 years and older awaiting Initial Assessment -
March 2018**

LHO	0 to 4 Mths	4 months & 1 day - 8 months	8 months & 1 day - 12 months	12 months & 1 day - 18 months	18 months & 1 day to 24 months	>24 months	Total
Cavan Monaghan	120	7	0	0	0	0	127
Donegal	97	0	5	65	0	0	167
Sligo Leitrim	101	1	0	0	0	0	102
CHO1	318	8	5	65	0	0	396
Galway	66	8	10	9	9	8	110
Mayo	25	5	0	0	0	0	30
Roscommon	24	1	1	0	0	0	26
CHO2	115	14	11	9	9	8	166
Clare	13	0	0	0	0	0	13
Limerick	21	0	0	0	0	0	21
North Tipperary East Limerick	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
CHO3	36	0	0	0	0	0	36
Kerry	37	0	0	0	0	0	37
North Cork	7	0	0	0	0	0	7
North Lee	35	2	0	0	0	0	37
South Lee	27	0	0	0	0	0	27
West Cork	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
CHO4	108	2	0	0	0	0	110
Carlow Kilkenny	74	18	14	18	8	0	132
South Tipperary	53	1	0	0	0	0	54
Waterford	68	6	0	0	0	0	74
Wexford	17	0	0	0	0	0	17
CHO5	212	25	14	18	8	0	277
Dublin South East	40	0	0	0	0	0	40
Dun Laoghaire	4	10	8	0	0	0	22
Wicklow	228	0	0	0	0	0	228
CHO6	272	10	8	0	0	0	290
Dublin South City	14	0	0	0	0	0	14
Dublin South West	44	1	0	0	0	0	45
Dublin West	95	24	22	16	2	56	215
Kildare West Wicklow	29	0	0	0	0	0	29
CHO7	182	25	22	16	2	56	303
Laois Offaly	90	30	9	13	14	0	156
Longford Westmeath	65	7	0	0	0	0	72
Louth	57	0	0	0	0	0	57
Meath	323	155	84	25	0	0	587
CHO8	535	192	93	38	14	0	872
Dublin North	94	6	1	0	0	0	101
Dublin North Central	140	67	40	14	2	1	264
Dublin North West	117	65	18	0	0	0	200
CHO9	351	138	59	14	2	1	565
Total	2,129	414	212	160	35	65	3,015



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