



13th December 2019

Deputy Brian Stanley,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 50854/19 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of children awaiting occupational therapy; and the number waiting over 1, 2 and 3 years, respectively

-Brian Stanley

Dear Deputy Stanley,

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

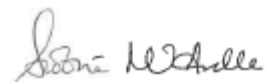
Please find attached Appendix 1 which shows the number of children and young people aged 0 to 17:11 years awaiting an initial assessment by an Occupational Therapist as of October 2019. The data is shown in tabular form and by Local Health Office (LHO) area. The waiting time intervals shown in the Appendix are the standard waiting time intervals for Occupational Therapy. There is no further breakdown available for clients waiting more than 52 weeks. The HSE is working to ensure timely access to children and adults requiring an occupational therapy service, and to reduce long waiting times for this important service.

Note that where there is a zero in a particular field in most instances this means there is nobody on the waiting list for the particular LHO / period of time waiting. However for a small number of data metrics, where there are zeros across a full row for a LHO or Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO), this means the data for a LHO or CHO is combined and returned via another LHO or CHO Area. It is important to note that the overall total in the attachments represents the entirety of the waiting lists.

The HSE is committed to the provision of high-quality effective Occupational Therapy services to children and young people in a timely manner to support optimum development. Our data indicates that there were 356,716 attendances at community Occupational Therapy services in 2018.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



Siobhán McArdle,
Head of Operations Primary Care,
Community Operations