



Eugene Murphy, T.D.,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

12th July 2019.

PQ 28617/19

'To ask the Minister for Health the number of children on the waiting list for physiotherapy services in County Galway in 2018 and to date in 2019, in tabular form; the average waiting time for children to access physiotherapy services in the county and if he will make a statement on the matter'.

Dear Deputy Murphy,

I refer to PQ 28617/19 uploaded on the PAD System on 3rd July 2019 and due for response on 12th July 2019 regarding representations that you have made to the Minister for Health concerning 'the number of children on the waiting list for physiotherapy services in County Galway in 2018 and to date in 2019, in tabular form; the average waiting time for children to access physiotherapy services in the county and if he will make a statement on the matter'. The HSE has been requested to reply directly to you on this matter. The following response outlines the position.

I wish to advise you that physiotherapy services for children in County Galway are provided by HSE Physiotherapy staff and by two voluntary agencies on behalf of the HSE, Enable Ireland and the Brothers of Charity Galway. The information that you have requested is not recorded in a single waiting list, therefore listed below is the available information in respect of the HSE and the two voluntary agencies who provide physiotherapy services for children in Co. Galway.

HSE Waiting List at 31st May 2019

Waiting time	Number of children
0-12 weeks	131
12-26 weeks	71
26-39 weeks	59
39-52 weeks	47
Over 52 weeks	97
Total	405

HSE Waiting List at 31st December 2018

Waiting time	Number of children
0-12 weeks	131
12-26 weeks	62
26-39 weeks	66
39-52 weeks	45
Over 52 weeks	35
Total	339

Brothers of Charity Galway

The Brothers of Charity Galway maintain physiotherapy waiting lists for Early Intervention School Age Services. Listed below in tabular format is the information in this regard.

Q/Year	Children on Early Intervention Services Waiting List	Children on School Age Services Waiting List
1 st Q 2018	6	32
2 nd Q 2018	4	31
3 rd Q 2018	15	29
4 th Q 2018	4	27
1 st Q 2019	5	24

Children in the Brothers of Charity Services are assessed and prioritised for physiotherapy services according to their clinical needs. The Brothers of Charity have three categories for assessed children with Priority One being children with the greatest need for physiotherapy and Priority Three having a lesser need for physiotherapy services. The Brothers of Charity Galway have advised that the average waiting time for the three categories is as follows:-

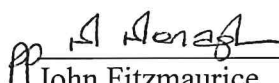
Priority One: 3 – 6 months, less if possible
Priority Two: 6 – 12 months
Priority Three: 12 – 18 months.

Enable Ireland

The latest available data from Enable Ireland is that there are currently 18 children on the Waiting List in 2019 with an average waiting time for physiotherapy services of 8 months.

I trust that this response has clarified the matter that you have raised in this instance.

Yours sincerely,



John Fitzmaurice,
General Manager,
Community Healthcare West.