

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare
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Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire, TD
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin.

PQ Ref 34101/19, 34115/19, 34129/19, 34143/19, 34157/19

PQ Ref 34101/19

"To ask the Minister for Health the waiting lists to be seen by an occupational therapist at the Carrigaline primary care centre by waiting times of 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 and 24 months, respectively."

PQ Ref 34115/19

"To ask the Minister for Health the waiting lists to be seen by an occupational therapist at the Blackrock primary care centre by waiting times of 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 and 24 months, respectively."

PQ Ref 34129/19

"To ask the Minister for Health the waiting lists to be seen by an occupational therapist in the Ballyphehane Togher area by waiting times of 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 and 24 months, respectively."

PQ Ref 34143/19

"To ask the Minister for Health the waiting lists to be seen by an occupational therapist in the Bishopstown Wilton area by waiting times of 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 and 24 months, respectively."

PQ Ref 34157/19

"To ask the Minister for Health the waiting lists to be seen by an occupational therapist in the Douglas area by waiting times of 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 and 24 months, respectively."

Dear Deputy Ó Laoghaire,

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

The data available regarding waiting times for the Occupational Therapy Services in the South Lee area is presented in the table below. The geographical breakdown of the waiting list as requested by you is not available.

CKCH	O.T. Adult and Child Waiting List as at 30/06/2019				
	0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks - ≤ 26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52	> 52 weeks
South Lee	303	179	137	92	166

The most significant challenge for the Occupational Therapy Service is in meeting the needs for children requiring a service. This is due to limited funding being provided historically for staffing in this area. Cork Kerry Community Healthcare has submitted a number of business cases for additional funding for development posts in this area, to address the growing need as part of the annual service planning/estimates process. However, to date funding for additional posts has not been provided.

Management of Cork Kerry Community Healthcare, due to its concern regarding the numbers of children and the length of time they were waiting for an Occupational Therapy assessment and /or intervention has identified once off funding to recruit additional Occupational Therapists to commence a waiting list initiative. While this initiative, which commenced on a phased basis at the start of 2019, is having an impact on the current Paediatric Occupational Therapy waiting times in Cork, the service is challenged by the significant increase in the numbers of referrals received this year when compared to previous years.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Teresa O' Donovan
Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare