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August 2nd, 2019

Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire, TD
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin.

PQ Ref 34103/19, 34117/19, 34131/19, 34145/19, 34159/19

PQ 34103/19

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

PQ 34117/19

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

PQ 34131/19

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

PQ 34145/19

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

PQ 34159/19

"To ask the Minister for Health the waiting lists to be seen by a speech and language 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 Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Children or adults, with or without a medical card or long term illness card, can be referred directly to the speech and language therapy service (SLT). There is no upper or lower age limit for eligibility to receive Primary Care SLT services. Clients who are under the care of a specialist service are not

eligible to access Primary Care SLT services i.e. Early Intervention Team/Network Disability Team and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

All referrals are prioritised for initial assessment and then, depending on the outcome of clinical assessments, children are waitlisted for the appropriate intervention. Children are seen for intervention, in line with their assessed need and where clinically indicated, within the available resources.

The data available regarding waiting times for the Paediatric Speech and Language Therapy Service in the area is presented in the table below. A further geographical breakdown of the waiting list is not available.

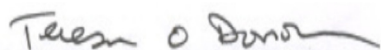
Numbers Waiting - Paediatric	0 - 4 months	4 - 8 months	8-12mths
Togher/Ballyphehane	159	109	70
Douglas			
Blackrock PCC			
Bishopstown/ Wilton			
Carrigaline PCC			
Total			

You will note from this table that all initial assessments are completed within 12 months with 80% being completed within 8 months.

The adult SLT service is an "episodic care" service in that clients with significant SLT needs are not waitlisted if re-referred.

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