



16/07/2019

Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 26638/19** To ask the Minister for Health the waiting lists for children seeking access to an **occupational therapist** by CHO in tabular form; the number of additional occupational therapists required to eliminate waiting lists for occupational therapy; and the estimated costs of employing such therapists in line with the Disability Act 2005

**PQ 26639/19** To ask the Minister for Health the waiting lists for children seeking access to **physiotherapy** by CHO in tabular form; the number of additional physiotherapists required to eliminate waiting lists for same; and the estimated costs of employing such therapists in line with the Disability Act 2005

**26640/19** To ask the Minister for Health the waiting lists for children seeking access to **psychologists** by CHO in tabular form; the number of additional psychologists required to eliminate waiting lists for psychology treatments; and the estimated costs of employing such psychologists in line with the Disability Act 2005

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-Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin

Dear Deputy Ó Caoláin,

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 see attached requested waiting lists by LHO and time waiting. Please note that the only metric available for Physiotherapy is in relation to assessment.

Table 1: Occupational Therapy - Number of Patients Awaiting First Time Assessment April 2019

Table 2: Physiotherapy - Number of Patients waiting for Assessment April 2019

Table 3: Psychology - Number of Patients waiting for treatment - April 2019

**Table 1: Occupational Therapy - Number of Patients Awaiting First Time Assessment April 2019**

CHO	Former LHO	0 - 4 Yrs 11 Months					5 - 17 Yrs 11 Months				
		0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks - ≤ 26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52	> 52 weeks	0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks - ≤ 26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52	> 52 weeks
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	0	0	0	0	0	57	30	42	62	509
	Donegal	38	27	4	1	1	39	60	23	20	0
	Sligo Leitrim	37	16	6	1	0	42	53	27	35	51
	<b>CHO1 Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>560</b>
CHO 2	Galway	4	9	1	0	0	69	30	0	1	0
	Mayo	33	29	32	43	65	61	75	50	74	422
	Roscommon	48	13	5	0	0	46	33	12	7	41
	<b>CHO2 Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>463</b>
CHO 3	Clare	3	3	0	0	0	30	7	0	0	0
	Limerick	7	9	1	0	0	46	40	1	0	0
	North Tipperary East Limerick	3	4	6	3	0	35	37	49	45	0
	<b>CHO3 Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>0</b>
CHO 4	Kerry	31	19	15	9	14	68	61	35	61	233
	North Cork	12	14	17	11	30	48	32	20	40	275
	North Lee	94	28	12	15	47	219	0	88	136	678
	South Lee	28	21	6	7	4	66	62	51	106	152
	West Cork	13	3	3	1	1	49	46	16	36	61
	<b>CHO4 Total</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>1,399</b>
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	46	38	44	41	31	60	86	71	103	66
	South Tipperary	37	26	27	24	46	79	104	51	78	87
	Waterford	49	42	35	39	102	93	74	60	72	230
	Wexford	53	64	42	38	106	94	137	115	140	602
	<b>CHO5 Total</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>985</b>
CHO 6	Dublin South East	21	8	2	1	0	26	11	7	22	18
	Dun Laoghaire	34	15	16	15	44	40	38	14	15	67
	Wicklow	22	31	20	28	59	86	79	66	101	256
	<b>CHO6 Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>341</b>
CHO 7	Dublin South City	8	7	3	5	0	51	64	58	25	0
	Dublin South West	28	32	52	32	71	67	87	72	61	467
	Dublin West	38	22	44	30	60	67	76	51	27	55
	Kildare West Wicklow	11	9	14	30	44	45	56	64	132	489
	<b>CHO7 Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>1,011</b>
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	99	87	94	51	135	95	137	92	133	564
	Longford Westmeath	103	64	14	8	1	150	109	27	6	0
	Louth	55	39	25	25	53	131	68	59	52	265
	Meath	37	4	0	0	0	227	80	27	5	0
	<b>CHO8 Total</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>829</b>
CHO 9	Dublin North	74	57	50	33	181	111	123	80	61	274
	Dublin Nth Central	25	38	15	15	16	35	25	19	24	27
	Dublin North West	38	56	34	55	82	26	68	46	83	379
	<b>CHO9 Total</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>680</b>
<b>National Total</b>		<b>1,129</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>1,193</b>	<b>2,358</b>	<b>1,988</b>	<b>1,393</b>	<b>1,763</b>	<b>6,268</b>

Table 2: Physiotherapy - Number of 0-17 years and 11 months old Patients waiting for Assessment April 2019							
CHO	LHO	0 to 12 weeks	12 weeks ≤ 26 weeks	26 weeks ≤ 39 weeks	39 weeks ≤ 52 weeks	> 52 weeks	TOTAL
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	121	21	21	41	292	496
	Donegal	100	16	2	0	0	118
	Sligo Leitrim	46	5	0	0	0	51
	<b>Total</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>665</b>
CHO 2	Galway	180	120	67	47	120	534
	Mayo	33	27	22	31	84	197
	Roscommon	36	6	0	0	0	42
	<b>Total</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>773</b>
CHO 3	Clare	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Limerick	0	0	0	0	0	0
	North Tipp East Limerick	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
CHO 4	Kerry	121	74	62	54	36	347
	North Cork	71	8	2	0	0	81
	North Lee	71	59	38	25	1	194
	South Lee	64	10	0	0	0	74
	West Cork	45	33	10	0	0	88
	<b>Total</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>784</b>
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	201	41	3	0	0	245
	South Tipperary	85	8	1	0	0	94
	Waterford	80	32	25	11	24	172
	Wexford	69	30	6	0	0	105
	<b>Total</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>616</b>
CHO 6	Dublin South East	108	10	5	0	0	123
	Dun Laoghaire	111	27	0	0	0	138
	Wicklow	108	48	28	36	19	239
	<b>Total</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>500</b>
CHO 7	Dublin South City	73	40	11	17	47	188
	Dublin South West	143	103	60	39	372	717
	Dublin West	195	60	63	58	31	407
	Kildare West Wicklow	205	92	67	46	11	421
	<b>Total</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>1,733</b>
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	154	77	42	36	48	357
	Longford Westmeath	76	0	0	0	0	76
	Louth	200	172	49	10	0	431
	Meath	133	42	41	23	0	239
	<b>Total</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>1,103</b>
CHO 9	Dublin North	119	119	87	82	300	707
	Dublin North Central	132	74	29	17	0	252
	Dublin North West	179	49	18	20	45	311
	<b>Total</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>1,270</b>
<b>National Total</b>		<b>3,259</b>	<b>1,403</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>1,430</b>	<b>7,444</b>

**Table 3: Psychology - Number of 0-17 years and 11 months old Patients waiting for treatment - April 2019**

LHO	0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks - ≤ 26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52	> 52 weeks	Total
Cavan Monaghan	112	34	0	0	0	146
Donegal	58	68	35	27	74	262
Sligo Leitrim	60	33	9	0	0	102
<b>CHO1</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>510</b>
Galway	66	76	87	98	244	571
Mayo	122	89	43	26	7	287
Roscommon	20	28	30	10	22	110
<b>CHO2</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>968</b>
Clare	35	38	33	19	105	230
Limerick	47	34	29	42	61	213
North Tipperary East Limerick	66	39	3	4	2	114
<b>CHO3</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>557</b>
Kerry	40	47	35	44	82	248
North Cork	35	24	20	18	17	114
North Lee	75	34	33	46	123	311
South Lee	33	40	48	61	201	383
West Cork	32	12	14	12	38	108
<b>CHO4</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>1,164</b>
Carlow Kilkenny	8	10	3	3	1	25
South Tipperary	45	31	21	18	45	160
Waterford	21	70	59	14	6	170
Wexford	68	43	62	40	98	311
<b>CHO5</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>666</b>
Dublin South East	65	8	1	5	5	84
Dun Laoghaire	60	26	8	4	0	98
Wicklow	76	50	32	8	0	166
<b>CHO6</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>348</b>
Dublin South City	2	0	0	0	0	2
Dublin South West	32	53	55	55	122	317
Dublin West	32	39	43	75	70	259
Kildare West Wicklow	62	22	21	35	110	250
<b>CHO7</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>828</b>
Laois Offaly	24	14	11	6	10	65
Longford Westmeath	23	16	4	0	0	43
Louth	96	42	36	21	74	269
Meath	159	98	24	3	1	285
<b>CHO8</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>662</b>
Dublin North	156	114	104	78	21	473
Dublin North Central	98	89	48	42	18	295
Dublin North West	130	120	90	123	341	804
<b>CHO9</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>1,572</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,958</b>	<b>1,441</b>	<b>1,041</b>	<b>937</b>	<b>1,898</b>	<b>7,275</b>

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 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 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

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, Muriola 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.
- 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.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



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David Walsh,  
National Director,  
Community Operations