



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Midlands Louth Meath  
Community Health Organisation

Príomhoifigeach  
ECSP Lár Tíre, An Lú, An Mhí  
Oifig an Cheantair  
Bóthar an Ardáin  
An Tulach Mhór  
Co Uíbh Fhailí

t: 057 93 59787

✉: [CHO8@hse.ie](mailto:CHO8@hse.ie)

Chief Officer  
Midlands Louth Meath CHO  
HSE Area Office,  
Arden Road  
Tullamore  
Co. Offaly

t: 057 93 59787

✉: [cho8@hse.ie](mailto:cho8@hse.ie)

19<sup>th</sup> March, 2019

Deputy Thomas Byrne  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**RE PQ 12091/19: To ask the Minister for Health the waiting time for a speech and language therapy appointment for children in County Meath.**

Dear Deputy Byrne,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question and Representation, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and outline the position as follows.

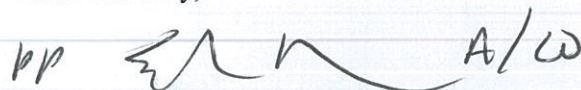
Waiting times vary throughout the county as a result of variances in staff vacancies.

Maximum waiting time in social care is 112 weeks. Social care team referrals which include SLT have increased from 211 referrals in 2013 to 425 referrals in 2018. Presently there are two approved vacancies on the social care team which are with the National Recruitment Service for recruitment and the process for filling these posts has commenced.

Maximum waiting time in primary care is 54 weeks. Presently there are three staff on maternity leave and an appointment is pending for one of these posts, which will help address the current 54 week waiting period. Of the remaining two vacant posts, one post is presently live with the National Recruitment Service and the other has been approved for forwarding to the National Recruitment Service for recruitment.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

 A/W

Pat Bennett  
Chief Officer  
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation