

17<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Ms. Margaret Murphy O'Mahony, T.D.,  
 Dáil Éireann,  
 Dublin 2

**PQ ref 19926/19**

**"To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on the occupational therapy treatment waiting list in CHO4 at the end of April 2019 or the latest date available; the number waiting less than 4, 4 to 12 and more than 12 months, respectively; and the number waiting aged 0 to 4, 5 to 17, 18 to 64 and 65 plus years of age, respectively in tabular form"**

Dear Deputy Murphy O'Mahony,

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.

The number of children under 18 years of age are awaiting occupational therapy assessment and/or intervention at the end of April 2019 are outlined in Tables 1 and 2 hereunder.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare has for a number of years been concerned about the numbers of children awaiting an Occupational Therapy assessment/intervention for long periods in particular those waiting over 12 months. These lengthy waiting lists are further compounded by an increase in referrals - 12% year to date when compared to the same period last year. Despite a number of submissions through the annual Estimates process, funding has not been made available to recruit additional core staff. The CHO has however targeted some once off savings to employ a number of temporary staff to deliver a targeted paediatric waitlist initiative. This initiative which commenced earlier this year has achieved reductions in a number of waitlist categories, particularly the cohort of 0-18 year olds waiting >52 weeks which reduced from 1520 in March to 1495 in April. This initiative is expected to realise further efficiencies in the coming months.

**Table 1**

0 - 4 Yrs. 11 Months					
0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks - ≤ 26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52	> 52 weeks	Total
178	85	53	43	96	455

**Table 2**

5 - 17 Yrs. 11 Months					
0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks - ≤ 26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52	> 52 weeks	Total
450	201	210	379	1399	2639

Tables 3 & 4 identify the number awaiting assessment and/or intervention in the 18 to 64 years and 65+ age brackets at the end of April 2019.

**Table 3**

18-64 years					
0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks - ≤ 26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52	> 52 weeks	Total
150	88	62	26	53	379

**Table 4**

65 years +					
0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks - ≤ 26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52	> 52 weeks	Total
796	471	249	159	314	1989

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**