



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Social Care
South East Community Healthcare
c/o Community Care Headquarters
James' Green
Kilkenny

Telephone 353 56 7784600

26th November 2019

Ms. Mary Butler T.D.
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin

PQ 46820/19

To ask the Minister for Health the wait time for children that are waiting to receive an appointment with an occupational therapist in Bethany House, Carlow; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Butler,

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

I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.

Carlow/Kilkenny Occupational Therapy Services provide a range of multidisciplinary supports and services for children with disability. There have been significant year on year increases in the number of children applying for assessment and interventions. It is acknowledged that given increased referral rates and demands for assessments and interventions by the Disability Services, there is a requirement for additional resources to meet current need and risks presenting. All applications for OT, both paediatrics and adults are prioritised on the basis of clinical need. The OT Service deals in the first instance with Priority 1 referrals in accordance with the Standard Operating Protocols that the children with the highest clinical need are seen first.

It should be noted that the routinely available data as presented in the table below includes all children services referrals from both primary care and disability services to Occupational Therapy (OT).

Waiting List	Age 0 - 5yrs	Age 5 - 18yrs
Bethany 52+	31	86
Bethany <=12	28	35
Bethany >12,<=26	27	43
Bethany >26,<=39	27	35
Bethany >39,<=52	16	39
Total	129	238

OT Services are continuing to examine various options within current capacity to reduce waiting lists. In the interim the OT Service monitor the waiting list on an ongoing basis in the overall context of available resources and prioritisation criteria. Every effort continues to be made to reduce waiting times for children with complex needs.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'PMcEvoy', written in black ink.

Patricia McEvoy
General Manager, Disability Service-South East Community Healthcare