

16th October, 2019

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

PQ ref 40504/19

"To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on the occupational therapy treatment waiting list by time periods and age category (details supplied) by LHO area in CHO 4 at the end of September 2019 or latest date available in tabular form."

Detail Supplied: the numbers waiting less than 4 months; the number waiting 4-12 months; and the number waiting more than 12 months; and if he would indicate also for each category the numbers waiting aged 0-4 years, 5-17 years, 18-64 years and aged 65 plus.

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.

As requested, table 1 below identifies the number of children under 18 years of age that are awaiting occupational therapy assessment and/ or intervention in Cork Kerry Community Healthcare at the end of September 2019. Table 2 shows the number awaiting assessment and/ or intervention in the 18 to 64 and 65+ age brackets at the end of September 2019.

Table 1

CKCH	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 weeks	> 52 weeks	0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks - ≤ 26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52 weeks	> 52 weeks
Kerry	31	23	21	6	14	42	58	69	50	244
North Cork	28	26	8	13	33	27	29	38	43	269
North Lee	38	34	26	9	17	84	158	131	100	459
South Lee	43	23	3	10	8	119	117	40	61	137
West Cork	11	9	7	2	0	46	40	37	26	60
CHO4 Total	151	115	65	40	72	318	402	315	280	1169

Table 2

CKCH	18-64 years					65 years plus				
	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
Kerry	42	21	9	1	4	180	130	46	9	23
North Cork	13	13	17	14	18	86	75	96	58	108
North Lee	33	32	21	7	35	116	141	99	45	175
South Lee	36	15	9	6	4	124	78	43	24	14
West Cork	12	5	1	4	1	44	37	14	1	0
CHO4 Total	136	86	57	32	62	550	461	298	137	320

The number of referrals to Occupational Therapy in Cork Kerry Community Healthcare year to date is 7,853. This represents an increase of 7.8% in comparison to the same period last year. The increase in service demand presents on-going challenges for wait list management.


Cork Kerry Community Healthcare identified once off funding and recruited additional Occupational Therapists to address the occupational therapy waiting lists for children waiting over one year for assessment in Cork.

In the period June to Sept 2019 the number of children (0-17 years 11 months) waiting over 52 weeks was reduced by 134. The highest number of children waiting is in the 5-17 years 11 months age group. In the period from June – Sept 2019 this cohort was reduced by 125.

Any additional resources if achieved will continue to target improvements in waiting times for Paediatric Occupational Therapy.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Majella Daly
A/Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare