



Eagraíocht Cúram  
Sláinte Pobail  
Tuaisceart Chathair &  
Tuaisceart Chontae  
Bhaile Átha Cliath

Community Healthcare  
Organisation  
Dublin North City &  
County

Ceannasaí Seirbhíse Cúram Príomhúil,  
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail  
Tuaisceart Chathair & Tuaisceart Chontae  
Bhaile Átha Cliath,  
Saoráid Cúram Sláinte Bhaile Munna,  
Bhaile Munna, Baile Átha Cliath 9, DO9 C8P5.

☎: 01 8467341 ✉: [hopc.dncc@hse.ie](mailto:hopc.dncc@hse.ie)

Head of Service Primary Care,  
HSE Community Healthcare Organisation  
Dublin North City & County,  
Ballymun Healthcare Facility,  
Ballymun, Dublin 9, DO9 C8P5.

Ms. Roisin Shortall, TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

30<sup>th</sup> December 2020

**PQ 42790/20 – To ask the Minister for Health the current waiting time for a speech and language assessment in Dublin 9 and 11; if steps can be taken to improve on the waiting time of 12 – 18 months for an initial assessment in Dublin 9 and 11; if steps can be taken to improve on the waiting time of 12 to 18 months for an initial assessment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. – *Róisín Shortall***

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

As at the end of November 2020 the waiting time for initial Speech and Language (SLT) assessment was 18 - 24 months in Dublin 9 and Dublin 11.

These waiting times were significantly impacted in 2020 by the closure of primary care clinics due to Covid-19 restrictions, redeployment of SLT staff and staff vacancies. Since the reopening of clinics and the introduction of telehealth appointments in our service, the SLT service are actively working to reduce these waiting times for initial assessment further. Service delivery models are being explored to optimise use of current staffing levels in addressing this waiting list. With the development of Enhanced Community Care Networks to include extra SLT staff, it is hoped that once recruited this will have a further positive impact on waiting lists.

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

Yours sincerely

**Des O'Flynn**  
Head of Service Primary Care