



22nd December 2020

Deputy Denise Mitchell,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 42879/20 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of children waiting over 12 months to see an occupational therapist by CHO in tabular form

-Denise Mitchell

Dear Deputy Mitchell

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

The spread of COVID-19 is posing significant challenges for many service areas, including all Therapy Services. In light of these unprecedented challenges together with the Government's guidance on social distancing and on 'Cocooning' for those aged over 70, the HSE has had to reassess its operation of Community Therapy Services nationally, to ensure that the assessed needs of those clients with the highest priority are met.

As a result of the national effort across all Community Healthcare Organisations throughout the country, some aspects of normal monthly reporting have been delayed. Please find attached Appendix 1 which contains, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists in Occupational Therapy for patients under 18 as of October 2020, which is the latest available data at this time.

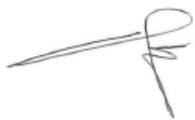
Please note the list of areas at the bottom of the Appendix which did not return data, as some areas were not in a position to return data due to staff being redeployed to Covid-19 related duties. Please also note that because of this the overall accuracy of the waiting list data is impacted.

The HSE is working to ensure timely access to children and adults requiring therapy services, and to reduce long waiting times for these important services.

As this is an evolving and unprecedented situation, the HSE will keep matters in review and will advise clients and/or family members accordingly.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



TJ Dunford,
Interim Head of Operations Primary Care/A.N.D.
Community Operations

Appendix 1 - Occupational Therapy - Number of Patients U18 Awaiting First Time Assessment October 2020											
CHO Area	0 - 4 Yrs 11 Months					5 - 17 Yrs 11 Months					TOTAL
	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	
CHO1 Total	64	44	61	54	86	74	88	101	107	699	1,378
CHO2 Total	57	33	25	33	160	80	134	134	242	1,289	2,187
CHO3 Total	15	7	9	1	2	60	34	88	43	12	271
CHO4 Total	106	88	76	61	100	194	164	280	328	1,754	3,151
CHO5 Total	90	51	82	87	348	197	113	260	271	1,524	3,023
CHO6 Total	40	29	39	35	181	59	63	157	154	902	1,659
CHO7 Total	68	44	68	69	260	141	123	155	411	1,731	3,070
CHO8 Total	129	145	154	140	311	330	243	400	404	1,534	3,790
CHO9 Total	103	106	112	141	436	95	158	126	165	1,076	2,518
National Total	672	547	626	621	1,884	1,230	1,120	1,701	2,125	10,521	21,047

Note: October data not returned for Carlow/Kilkenny (CHO 5).