



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.

Mr. Paul McAuliffe, TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

30<sup>th</sup> December 2020

**PQ 43057/20 – To ask the Minister for Health his views on the wait time for speech and language therapy assessments in CHO area 9; and if he will make a statement on the matter. – Paul McAuliffe**

Dear Deputy McAuliffe,

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.

The current waiting time for initial Speech and Language (SLT) assessment in Community Healthcare Organisation - Dublin North City and County is 18 – 24 months.

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 is actively working to reduce these waiting times for initial assessment further. 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

