



13<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Deputy Pauline Tully,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 19366/20 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of children in each county on the waiting list for speech and language therapy in 2019 and to date in 2020, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**- Pauline Tully**

Dear Deputy Tully

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.

Waiting list data is collated on a monthly basis. In order to most accurately answer this question, figures from June 2020 which are the most recent available at this time, and figures from December 2019 have been used. Note that 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 see below appendices which contain the following in tabular form;

Appendix 1 – Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Initial Assessment - June 2020

Appendix 2 – Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Initial Therapy - June 2020

Appendix 3 – Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Further Therapy - June 2020

Appendix 4 – Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Initial Assessment - December 2019

Appendix 5 - Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Initial Therapy – December 2019

Appendix 6 – Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Further Therapy - December 2019

Please note the list of LHO 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,



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Siobhán McArdle,  
Head of Operations Primary Care,  
Community Operations

**APPENDIX 1**

**Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Initial Assessment - June 2020**

LHO	0 to 4 Mths	4 months & 1 day - 8 months	8 months & 1 day - 12 months	12 months & 1 day - 18 months	18 months & 1 day to 24 months	>24 months	Total
Cavan Monaghan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Donegal	348	82	0	0	0	0	430
Sligo Leitrim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CHO1</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>430</b>
Galway	463	316	37	52	3	14	885
Mayo	158	23	9	0	0	0	190
Roscommon	71	5	0	0	0	0	76
<b>CHO2</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1,151</b>
Clare	109	94	54	59	0	0	316
Limerick	195	294	56	16	24	25	610
North Tipperary East Limerick	145	243	77	53	0	0	518
<b>CHO3</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1,444</b>
Kerry	180	32	3	0	0	0	215
North Cork	70	51	0	0	0	0	121
North Lee	232	115	4	0	0	0	351
South Lee	278	144	1	9	14	1	447
West Cork	66	44	0	0	0	0	110
<b>CHO4</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1,244</b>
Carlow Kilkenny	103	197	1	0	0	0	301
South Tipperary	97	189	39	1	0	0	326
Waterford	82	210	50	0	0	0	342
Wexford	104	340	283	130	0	0	857
<b>CHO5</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>936</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,826</b>
Dublin South East	36	16	7	9	8	0	76
Dun Laoghaire	74	155	48	41	27	7	352
Wicklow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CHO6</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>428</b>
Dublin South City	78	170	38	26	19	36	367
Dublin South West	143	255	6	41	101	357	903
Dublin West	62	240	210	181	56	4	753
Kildare West Wicklow	214	425	90	0	0	0	729
<b>CHO7</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>1,090</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>2,752</b>
Laois Offaly	636	37	5	0	0	0	678
Longford Westmeath	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Louth	333	0	0	0	0	0	333
Meath	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CHO8</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,011</b>
Dublin North	242	615	363	221	60	0	1,501
Dublin North Central	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dublin North West	214	408	245	199	94	33	1,193
<b>CHO9</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>1,023</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>2,694</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,733</b>	<b>4,700</b>	<b>1,626</b>	<b>1,038</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>12,980</b>

Note : June data not returned for Cavan Monaghan, Sligo Leitrim, Meath and Dublin North Central.

**APPENDIX 2**

**Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Initial Therapy - June 2020**

LHO	0 to 4 Mths	4 months & 1 day - 8 months	8 months & 1 day - 12 months	12 months & 1 day - 18 months	18 months & 1 day to 24 months	>24 months	Total
Cavan Monaghan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Donegal	115	0	0	0	0	0	115
Sligo Leitrim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CHO1</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>115</b>
Galway	100	94	77	69	74	201	615
Mayo	121	96	0	0	0	0	217
Roscommon	71	101	0	0	0	0	172
<b>CHO2</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>1,004</b>
Clare	19	93	91	30	8	0	241
Limerick	60	51	42	27	12	25	217
North Tipperary East Limerick	11	16	8	0	0	0	35
<b>CHO3</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>493</b>
Kerry	120	87	15	1	0	0	223
North Cork	51	88	51	36	0	0	226
North Lee	118	196	149	149	39	24	675
South Lee	75	206	128	114	35	59	617
West Cork	24	30	32	8	0	0	94
<b>CHO4</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>1,835</b>
Carlow Kilkenny	12	77	102	185	137	84	597
South Tipperary	17	85	67	44	0	0	213
Waterford	13	64	100	189	131	54	551
Wexford	15	117	148	105	59	13	457
<b>CHO5</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>1,818</b>
Dublin South East	23	1	0	0	0	0	24
Dun Laoghaire	5	56	18	0	0	0	79
Wicklow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CHO6</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>103</b>
Dublin South City	44	124	83	111	60	74	496
Dublin South West	19	90	97	97	41	8	352
Dublin West	16	152	202	156	97	92	715
Kildare West Wicklow	38	54	1	0	0	0	93
<b>CHO7</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>1,656</b>
Laos Offaly	30	110	107	130	12	0	389
Longford Westmeath	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Louth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meath	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CHO8</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>389</b>
Dublin North	22	225	360	147	0	0	754
Dublin North Central	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dublin North West	87	109	111	73	16	0	396
<b>CHO9</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,150</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,226</b>	<b>2,322</b>	<b>1,989</b>	<b>1,671</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>8,563</b>

Note : June data not returned for Cavan Monaghan, Sligo Leitrim, Meath and Dublin North Central.

**APPENDIX 3**

**Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Further Therapy - June 2020**

LHO	0 to 4 Mths	4 months & 1 day - 8 months	8 months & 1 day - 12 months	12 months & 1 day - 18 months	18 months & 1 day to 24 months	>24 months	Total
Cavan Monaghan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Donegal	1,200	320	0	0	0	0	1,520
Sligo Leitrim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CHO1</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,520</b>
Galway	838	487	101	45	7	3	1,481
Mayo	219	80	0	2	0	0	301
Roscommon	105	0	0	0	0	0	105
<b>CHO2</b>	<b>1,162</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1,887</b>
Clare	170	195	118	106	14	0	603
Limerick	478	194	129	85	24	6	916
North Tipperary East Limerick	301	77	26	8	0	0	412
<b>CHO3</b>	<b>949</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1,931</b>
Kerry	611	401	48	2	0	0	1,062
North Cork	79	141	65	60	0	0	345
North Lee	143	322	241	192	45	60	1,003
South Lee	106	208	100	95	53	30	592
West Cork	195	174	98	43	0	0	510
<b>CHO4</b>	<b>1,134</b>	<b>1,246</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>3,512</b>
Carlow Kilkenny	160	111	68	73	6	0	418
South Tipperary	0	324	214	0	0	0	538
Waterford	1	18	8	43	17	11	98
Wexford	83	193	210	98	36	10	630
<b>CHO5</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>646</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1,684</b>
Dublin South East	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dun Laoghaire	12	0	0	0	0	0	12
Wicklow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CHO6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>
Dublin South City	87	148	99	110	58	81	583
Dublin South West	72	231	195	154	71	32	755
Dublin West	22	243	228	286	89	119	987
Kildare West Wicklow	647	407	70	0	0	0	1,124
<b>CHO7</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>1,029</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>3,449</b>
Laois Offaly	192	106	33	49	14	0	394
Longford Westmeath	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Louth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meath	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CHO8</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>394</b>
Dublin North	170	616	604	256	0	0	1,646
Dublin North Central	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dublin North West	403	151	165	181	17	0	917
<b>CHO9</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>767</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,563</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,294</b>	<b>5,147</b>	<b>2,820</b>	<b>1,888</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>16,952</b>

Note : June data not returned for Cavan Monaghan, Sligo Leitrim, Meath and Dublin North Central.

**APPENDIX 4**

**Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients waiting for Initial Assessment - December 2019**

LHO	0 to 4 Mths	4 months & 1 day - 8 months	8 months & 1 day - 12 months	12 months & 1 day - 18 months	18 months & 1 day to 24 months	>24 months	Total
Cavan Monaghan	423	102	51	18	0	0	594
Donegal	282	0	0	0	0	0	282
Sligo Leitrim	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
<b>CHO1</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>880</b>
Galway	489	72	50	44	4	4	663
Mayo	322	24	0	0	0	0	346
Roscommon	86	0	0	0	0	0	86
<b>CHO2</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1,095</b>
Clare	207	55	13	3	5	0	283
Limerick	367	81	16	22	52	8	546
North Tipperary East Limerick	203	94	48	2	0	0	347
<b>CHO3</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1,176</b>
Kerry	164	0	0	0	0	0	164
North Cork	193	29	0	0	0	0	222
North Lee	412	26	0	0	0	0	438
South Lee	368	18	45	60	38	77	606
West Cork	79	0	0	0	0	0	79
<b>CHO4</b>	<b>1,216</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>1,509</b>
Carlow Kilkenny	241	7	0	0	0	0	248
South Tipperary	217	37	0	0	0	0	254
Waterford	199	21	1	0	0	0	221
Wexford	332	210	152	6	0	0	700
<b>CHO5</b>	<b>989</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,423</b>
Dublin South East	138	36	11	20	20	1	226
Dun Laoghaire	117	19	13	12	10	0	171
Wicklow	2	3	3	0	0	0	8
<b>CHO6</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>405</b>
Dublin South City	125	50	29	14	35	4	257
Dublin South West	189	95	10	65	102	251	712
Dublin West	161	217	153	73	11	2	617
Kildare West Wicklow	407	168	0	0	0	0	575
<b>CHO7</b>	<b>882</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>2,161</b>
Laois Offaly	326	4	0	0	0	0	330
Longford Westmeath	478	144	83	1	0	0	706
Louth	228	0	0	0	0	0	228
Meath	181	129	55	8	4	0	377
<b>CHO8</b>	<b>1,213</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,641</b>
Dublin North	488	364	154	50	22	0	1,078
Dublin North Central	148	186	205	15	0	0	554
Dublin North West	327	300	139	78	21	1	866
<b>CHO9</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2,498</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,903</b>	<b>2,491</b>	<b>1,231</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>12,788</b>

**APPENDIX 5**

**Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients waiting for Initial Therapy - December 2019**

LHO	0 to 4 Mths	4 months & 1 day - 8 months	8 months & 1 day - 12 months	12 months & 1 day - 18 months	18 months & 1 day to 24 months	>24 months	Total
Cavan Monaghan	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Donegal	70	0	0	0	0	0	70
Sligo Leitrim	12	0	0	0	0	0	12
<b>CHO1</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>85</b>
Galway	118	84	42	68	68	123	503
Mayo	64	7	0	0	0	0	71
Roscommon	84	11	0	0	0	0	95
<b>CHO2</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>669</b>
Clare	50	56	16	7	0	0	129
Limerick	98	63	22	13	27	8	231
North Tipperary East Limerick	62	12	9	0	0	0	83
<b>CHO3</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>443</b>
Kerry	85	29	2	0	0	0	116
North Cork	89	55	37	17	0	0	198
North Lee	205	164	151	55	19	12	606
South Lee	158	153	52	1	0	3	367
West Cork	54	43	15	2	0	0	114
<b>CHO4</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1,401</b>
Carlow Kilkenny	95	98	133	150	92	0	568
South Tipperary	100	101	62	13	0	0	276
Waterford	64	106	182	157	67	1	577
Wexford	117	132	93	78	34	0	454
<b>CHO5</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1,875</b>
Dublin South East	14	0	5	10	10	6	45
Dun Laoghaire	28	52	2	0	0	0	82
Wicklow	13	4	4	31	0	0	52
<b>CHO6</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>179</b>
Dublin South City	113	103	86	65	64	23	454
Dublin South West	133	134	57	59	12	0	395
Dublin West	205	157	121	138	57	64	742
Kildare West Wicklow	53	9	0	0	0	0	62
<b>CHO7</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>1,653</b>
Laois Offaly	94	103	103	25	0	0	325
Longford Westmeath	88	28	1	0	0	0	117
Louth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meath	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>CHO8</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>443</b>
Dublin North	274	464	169	5	0	0	912
Dublin North Central	58	48	36	8	0	0	150
Dublin North West	172	121	80	16	0	1	390
<b>CHO9</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1,452</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,774</b>	<b>2,337</b>	<b>1,480</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>8,200</b>

**APPENDIX 6**

**Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients waiting for Further Therapy - December 2019**

LHO	0 to 4 Mths	4 months & 1 day - 8 months	8 months & 1 day - 12 months	12 months & 1 day - 18 months	18 months & 1 day to 24 months	>24 months	Total
Cavan Monaghan	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Donegal	507	270	100	0	0	0	877
Sligo Leitrim	8	0	0	0	0	0	8
<b>CHO1</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>886</b>
Galway	711	150	40	24	5	6	936
Mayo	83	7	0	0	0	0	90
Roscommon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CHO2</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1,026</b>
Clare	225	171	55	13	0	0	464
Limerick	440	164	97	78	14	25	818
North Tipperary East Limerick	123	86	31	8	0	0	248
<b>CHO3</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1,530</b>
Kerry	390	96	8	1	0	0	495
North Cork	169	66	23	36	0	0	294
North Lee	245	268	212	69	27	37	858
South Lee	215	151	100	53	8	21	548
West Cork	161	137	30	4	0	0	332
<b>CHO4</b>	<b>1,180</b>	<b>718</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>2,527</b>
Carlow Kilkenny	44	79	53	8	0	0	184
South Tipperary	0	281	185	0	0	0	466
Waterford	9	34	17	19	10	0	89
Wexford	153	89	78	77	18	6	421
<b>CHO5</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1,160</b>
Dublin South East	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dun Laoghaire	38	0	0	0	0	0	38
Wicklow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CHO6</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>38</b>
Dublin South City	161	134	90	88	83	19	575
Dublin South West	263	214	115	103	40	1	736
Dublin West	271	282	253	110	80	52	1,048
Kildare West Wicklow	96	10	0	0	0	0	106
<b>CHO7</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>2,465</b>
Laois Offaly	67	51	28	33	0	0	179
Longford Westmeath	334	166	57	31	0	0	588
Louth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meath	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CHO8</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>767</b>
Dublin North	614	645	286	9	0	0	1,554
Dublin North Central	86	66	79	17	0	0	248
Dublin North West	253	201	142	26	1	0	623
<b>CHO9</b>	<b>953</b>	<b>912</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,425</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,667</b>	<b>3,818</b>	<b>2,079</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>12,824</b>