

11th August, 2020

Thomas Gould, T.D.,
 Dáil Éireann,
 Dublin 2

PQ ref 19474/20

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons awaiting an occupational therapy appointment in CHO4; the number waiting less than 3, 3 to 6, 6 to 12 and more than 12 months, respectively in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter”

Dear Deputy Gould,

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 (CKCH) at the end of June 2020. Table 2 shows the number awaiting assessment and/or intervention in the 18 to 64 and 65+ age brackets at the end of June 2020.

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	7	21	20	16	14	11	78	47	50	353
North Cork	3	16	2	4	4	24	59	43	21	249
North Lee	29	46	25	14	20	66	157	125	119	654
South Lee	21	43	12	10	5	78	139	66	81	215
West Cork	2	5	4	7	4	19	58	37	13	110
CKCH Total	62	131	63	51	47	198	491	318	284	1581

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	28	24	17	4	1	147	175	78	32	8
North Cork	6	8	8	10	41	50	60	52	57	180
North Lee	27	56	31	19	38	113	202	120	68	214
South Lee	15	13	9	8	14	98	136	79	44	34
West Cork	17	13	4	2	3	58	51	19	5	12
CKCH Total	93	114	69	43	97	466	624	348	206	448

From Mid-March 2020 arising from the COVID 19 pandemic, all services were disrupted, capacity was significantly reduced and also accordingly waiting times were impacted.

While Cork Kerry Community Healthcare has a plan in place for the structured and phased return of services, adherence to infection, prevention control measures to reduce the risk of the spread of Covid-19 will result in fewer appointments being available per day. In the absence of additional resources being made available, this will further impact on the waiting times for the occupational therapy service. I appreciate the difficulties this creates for those waiting for a service and I acknowledge their continued patience and understanding.

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

Yours sincerely,



Teresa O' Donovan
Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare