



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

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19th June 2020

Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House, Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: aengus.osnodaigh@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Ó Snodaigh,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary question, which was submitted to this department for response.

PQ 9647/20

To ask the Minister for Health the way in which Covid-19 has affected waiting lists for disability services for children; the waiting lists for speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and psychology for disability services children for those waiting less than 12, between 12 to 52 and more than 52 weeks by county; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational therapy and Psychology Services are provided through Primary Care Teams in CHO Areas to children and young people requiring assessment, diagnosis and treatment and in the case of Speech and Language Therapy, for language and communication difficulties and feeding and swallowing difficulties.

Primary Care Operations compiles the data for SLY, OT and Psychology waiting lists and has provided the most recently available data to answer this query. The tables in the attached appendices give the following information:

Appendix 1 - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Initial SLT Assessment - February 2020

Appendix 2- Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Initial SLT Therapy - February 2020

Appendix 3 - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Further SLT Therapy - February 2020

Appendix 4:- Number of Patients aged 0 to 17 years old awaiting First Time OT Assessment - February 2020

Appendix 5:- Number of Patients aged 0 to 17 years old waiting Psychology treatment - February 2020

COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

In preparing for and responding to COVID-19 and to fully align with Public Health guidance as recommended via the NPHE, the HSE and its partner service providers put in place a range of measures, which included the prioritisation of vital residential and home support services whilst curtailing or closing certain services such as day services, respite services, and certain clinical supports in order to; a) prioritise essential public health services at CHO level and b) ensure continued delivery of the referenced residential and home supports provision.

In this regard, all decisions regarding supports for children with disabilities and their families were made and continue to be made in the context of contemporaneous public health advice from the NPHE.

In the absence of regular access to some service and supports, CHOs and service providers tried to maintain services that can be delivered safely; providing outreach and telecare solutions, using technology where possible; and using creative and innovative models of care to support service users, both adults and children.

In addition, as part of our planned COVID-19 related measures, the HSE is hoping to implement the temporary reassignment of Special Needs Assistants to work with healthcare staff in reaching our most vulnerable children with disabilities and their families, as part of our effort to increase the availability of supports.

Additionally, I can also clarify that the HSE is recommencing work in relation to the setting up of Childrens Disability Networks with our agency partners, with Network Managers currently being appointed.

Under the governance of the HSEs National Integrated Operations Hub chaired by the COO and work relating to vulnerable people, Disability Operations has a team in place with the responsibility for providing supports and capacity building training for the sector. To date, a range of guidance material has been developed to support people with disabilities, families and staff including:

- Alternative Models of Care (Non-Residential)
- Frequently Asked Questions for People with Disabilities and Carers.
- Streamlined Health Passport for people with disabilities who are admitted to hospital
- Guidance on Use of PPE in Disability Services
- Guidance for supporting adults in a community residence/at home
- Guidance of supporting children in a community residence/at home
- Support coordination in a pandemic; practical checklist to avoid stressors for service users

For the full list of Guidance/Advice documentation, see the below web link which is the central repository for disability specific guidance material during the COVID-19 emergency: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/newsfeatures/covid19-updates/partner-resources/>

Roadmap for Reopening

Whilst accepting that significant levels of vital therapies have been temporarily curtailed, processes are underway in order to plan for the reintroduction of non-Covid services. In that regard the HSE has now developed a number of important guidance documents to assist disability services. These are now also available on the above website and are as follows:

1. Framework for Resumption of Adult Day Services;
2. Reshaping Disability Services From 2020 & Beyond

It is important to note that the above guidance is interim and subject to change in line with the overall management of the Covid-19 pandemic and in accordance with contemporary Public Health Guidance;

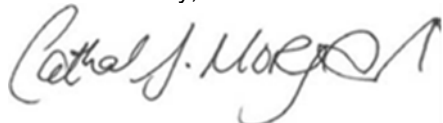
CHOs and S38/39 agencies continue to work together at a regional level in order to plan and co-ordinate efforts.

The HSE continues to plan the re-establishment of vital non-covid supports and services including therapy services. This includes very careful and detailed work on the part of the Disability Sector with national guidance and will result in directing how all funded agencies can deliver services on a medium to long-term basis. Plans have to comply with guidance as set out by the National Public Health Emergency Team as well as Public Health specialists in the HSE.

In respect of Childrens Disability Services, a national implementation group is being established to support the reform of these services as envisaged in PDS1 and through the establishment of 'Networks' (CDNs) by year end. This remains a key a priority commitment for the HSE and its Lead Agency Partners;

In addition the Disability Sector is re-establishing a number of structures including the National Consultative Forum as well as other operational structures that will co-ordinate and support the sector as we continue to navigate this pandemic and make every effort to deliver supports and services in line with Public Health Guidance.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Cathal Morgan,
Head of Operations - Disability Services, Community Operations

APPENDIX 1

Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Initial Assessment - February 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	326	215	64	30	0	0	635
Donegal	360	112	0	0	0	0	472
Sligo Leitrim	23	0	0	0	0	0	23
CHO1	709	327	64	30	0	0	1,130
Galway	384	72	48	17	6	4	531
Mayo	182	20	0	0	0	0	202
Roscommon	48	0	0	0	0	0	48
CHO2	614	92	48	17	6	4	781
Clare	142	52	12	9	5	0	220
Limerick	342	127	8	19	21	21	538
North Tipperary East Limerick	266	88	42	16	6	0	418
CHO3	750	267	62	44	32	21	1,176
Kerry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Cork	163	31	0	0	0	0	194
North Lee	366	38	0	0	0	0	404
South Lee	391	11	36	55	53	65	611
West Cork	66	0	0	0	0	0	66
CHO4	986	80	36	55	53	65	1,275
Carlow Kilkenny	233	6	0	0	0	0	239
South Tipperary	214	59	0	0	0	0	273
Waterford	207	53	1	0	0	0	261
Wexford	287	242	189	4	0	0	722
CHO5	941	360	190	4	0	0	1,495
Dublin South East	106	65	9	10	10	0	200
Dun Laoghaire	107	33	20	20	30	0	210
Wicklow	3	9	11	0	0	0	23
CHO6	216	107	40	30	40	0	433
Dublin South City	195	43	28	20	33	9	328
Dublin South West	220	40	41	44	103	269	717
Dublin West	227	199	147	120	0	1	694
Kildare West Wicklow	473	147	0	0	0	0	620
CHO7	1,115	429	216	184	136	279	2,359
Laos Offaly	504	2	0	0	0	0	506
Longford Westmeath	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Louth	221	3	0	0	0	0	224
Meath	227	117	19	0	0	0	363
CHO8	952	122	19	0	0	0	1,093
Dublin North	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dublin North Central	136	168	220	45	0	0	569
Dublin North West	414	267	210	68	37	4	1,000
CHO9	550	435	430	113	37	4	1,569
Total	6,833	2,219	1,105	477	304	373	11,311

APPENDIX 2

Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Initial Therapy - February 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	58	2	0	0	0	0	60
Sligo Leitrim	6	1	0	0	0	0	7
CHO1	64	3	0	0	0	0	67
Galway	175	71	52	59	78	141	576
Mayo	148	14	0	0	0	0	162
Roscommon	143	17	0	0	0	0	160
CHO2	466	102	52	59	78	141	898
Clare	80	54	22	15	0	0	171
Limerick	88	49	28	15	5	6	191
North Tipperary East Limerick	34	11	5	0	0	0	50
CHO3	202	114	55	30	5	6	412
Kerry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Cork	95	68	42	4	0	0	209
North Lee	146	182	133	78	18	20	577
South Lee	239	129	96	9	0	4	477
West Cork	53	43	8	1	0	0	105
CHO4	533	422	279	92	18	24	1,368
Carlow Kilkenny	75	103	130	139	130	12	589
South Tipperary	100	75	75	9	0	0	259
Waterford	62	115	124	183	135	1	620
Wexford	113	120	96	85	20	1	435
CHO5	350	413	425	416	285	14	1,903
Dublin South East	17	0	0	0	0	0	17
Dun Laoghaire	54	1	0	0	0	0	55
Wicklow	14	5	2	19	0	0	40
CHO6	85	6	2	19	0	0	112
Dublin South City	103	76	74	77	52	36	418
Dublin South West	152	119	76	50	26	0	423
Dublin West	149	203	128	103	66	38	687
Kildare West Wicklow	73	11	0	0	0	0	84
CHO7	477	409	278	230	144	74	1,612
Laos Offaly	109	123	85	11	1	0	329
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
CHO8	109	123	85	11	1	0	329
Dublin North	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dublin North Central	74	41	31	11	0	0	157
Dublin North West	123	134	69	24	2	2	354
CHO9	197	175	100	35	2	2	511
Total	2,483	1,767	1,276	892	533	261	7,212

Note : February data not returned for Kerry and Dublin North

APPENDIX 3

Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Further Therapy - February 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	442	240	40	0	0	0	722
Sligo Leitrim	14	0	0	0	0	0	14
CHO1	456	240	40	0	0	0	736
Galway	545	172	43	12	2	2	776
Mayo	70	3	0	0	0	0	73
Roscommon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHO2	615	175	43	12	2	2	849
Clare	165	173	96	25	0	0	459
Limerick	398	182	74	91	7	5	757
North Tipperary East Limerick	109	62	24	0	0	0	195
CHO3	672	417	194	116	7	5	1,411
Kerry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Cork	150	99	48	8	0	0	305
North Lee	270	230	230	91	14	26	861
South Lee	232	102	109	52	10	13	518
West Cork	125	152	49	8	0	0	334
CHO4	777	583	436	159	24	39	2,018
Carlow Kilkenny	111	66	69	16	1	0	263
South Tipperary	0	175	261	0	0	0	436
Waterford	10	8	41	20	13	3	95
Wexford	161	150	101	67	28	6	513
CHO5	282	399	472	103	42	9	1,307
Dublin South East	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dun Laoghaire	30	0	0	0	0	0	30
Wicklow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHO6	30	0	0	0	0	0	30
Dublin South City	125	92	86	59	91	35	488
Dublin South West	245	198	138	90	56	2	729
Dublin West	223	254	247	126	68	75	993
Kildare West Wicklow	112	6	0	0	0	0	118
CHO7	705	550	471	275	215	112	2,328
Laos Offaly	105	38	25	0	0	0	168
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
CHO8	105	38	25	0	0	0	168
Dublin North	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dublin North Central	100	59	67	37	0	0	263
Dublin North West	253	159	144	40	2	0	598
CHO9	353	218	211	77	2	0	861
Total	3,995	2,620	1,892	742	292	167	9,708

Note : February data not returned for Kerry and Dublin North

Appendix 4: Occupational Therapy - Number of Patients aged 0 to 17 years old awaiting First Time Assessment February 2020

CHO	Former LHO	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	
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	36	47	35	12	17	52	80	66	47	561	953
	Donegal	20	28	7	8	6	20	38	24	32	18	201
	Sligo Leitrim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	CHO1 Total	56	75	42	20	23	72	118	90	79	579	1,154
CHO 2	Galway	18	8	0	0	2	64	85	9	22	38	246
	Mayo	31	27	30	21	99	27	62	42	73	623	1,035
	Roscommon	25	6	9	12	17	73	91	94	72	356	755
	CHO2 Total	74	41	39	33	118	164	238	145	167	1,017	2,036
CHO 3	Clare	2	0	0	0	0	23	2	1	0	0	28
	Limerick	5	2	0	0	0	42	33	0	0	0	82
	North Tipperary East Limerick	3	4	1	0	0	38	28	19	10	2	105
	CHO3 Total	10	6	1	0	0	103	63	20	10	2	215
CHO 4	Kerry	23	26	19	10	18	59	56	40	64	273	588
	North Cork	14	7	7	11	10	41	44	26	47	218	425
	North Lee	60	39	26	22	21	112	142	153	72	549	1,196
	South Lee	45	27	13	2	6	120	95	89	89	106	592
	West Cork	7	11	5	4	6	54	43	18	35	67	250
	CHO4 Total	149	110	70	49	61	386	380	326	307	1,213	3,051
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	57	61	44	48	64	68	94	78	77	222	813
	South Tipperary	31	51	24	21	61	83	82	58	57	144	612
	Waterford	21	30	36	35	129	47	47	41	61	333	780
	Wexford	62	28	58	41	104	144	123	95	88	684	1,427
	CHO5 Total	171	170	162	145	358	342	346	272	283	1,383	3,632
CHO 6	Dublin South East	20	4	21	10	19	21	10	27	10	53	195
	Dun Laoghaire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Wicklow	33	29	14	22	76	86	88	75	54	411	888
	CHO6 Total	53	33	35	32	95	107	98	102	64	464	1,083
CHO 7	Dublin South City	19	8	10	10	40	21	45	11	13	12	189
	Dublin South West	16	15	16	29	132	45	60	62	64	619	1,058
	Dublin West	50	82	61	30	23	140	89	57	44	53	629

	Kildare West Wicklow	19	13	12	13	37	46	68	90	58	545	901
	CHO7 Total	104	118	99	82	232	252	262	220	179	1,229	2,777
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	59	99	65	53	209	164	135	132	148	827	1,891
	Longford Westmeath	112	93	50	12	4	167	152	65	21	1	677
	Louth	52	51	40	19	47	108	64	56	74	292	803
	Meath	26	31	33	0	0	166	160	52	15	6	489
	CHO8 Total	249	274	188	84	260	605	511	305	258	1,126	3,860
CHO 9	Dublin North	58	69	63	65	213	64	110	116	92	485	1,335
	Dublin Nth Central	22	27	30	27	24	35	38	20	35	58	316
	Dublin North West	55	90	60	32	121	71	78	67	24	232	830
	CHO9 Total	135	186	153	124	358	170	226	203	151	775	2,481
National Total		1,001	1,013	789	569	1,505	2,201	2,242	1,683	1,498	7,788	20,289

Note: February data not returned for Sligo/Leitrim and Dun Laoghaire

Appendix 5: Psychology - Number of Patients aged 0 to 17 years old waiting for treatment February 2020

CHO	Former LHO	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	> 52 weeks	0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks - ≤ 26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52	> 52 weeks	
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	22	15	0	0	1	86	41	6	6	8	185
	Donegal	0	1	0	0	0	44	83	48	33	94	303
	Sligo Leitrim	5	3	3	0	0	6	25	19	2	0	63
	CHO1 Total	27	19	3	0	1	136	149	73	41	102	551
CHO 2	Galway	24	18	19	8	13	82	129	159	123	783	1,358
	Mayo	25	24	8	12	9	58	42	36	53	31	298
	Roscommon	9	5	0	1	4	14	10	11	11	48	113
	CHO2 Total	58	47	27	21	26	154	181	206	187	862	1,769
CHO 3	Clare	8	7	6	2	0	20	40	50	15	57	205
	Limerick	13	16	3	4	3	33	37	30	26	71	236
	North Tipperary East Limerick	2	1	3	0	2	11	9	12	30	24	94
	CHO3 Total	23	24	12	6	5	64	86	92	71	152	535
CHO 4	Kerry	0	6	3	5	3	24	32	36	23	63	195
	North Cork	5	3	2	1	0	40	21	20	7	0	99
	North Lee	8	10	4	5	4	60	35	42	36	105	309
	South Lee	14	11	5	4	3	44	43	56	38	255	473
	West Cork	3	2	2	0	1	20	19	16	26	36	125
	CHO4 Total	30	32	16	15	11	188	150	170	130	459	1,201
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	0	0	0	0	0	17	1	0	0	0	18
	South Tipperary	13	9	1	2	5	37	38	12	16	37	170
	Waterford	17	9	11	3	2	63	76	63	55	21	320
	Wexford	17	5	0	6	6	66	69	45	36	127	377
	CHO5 Total	47	23	12	11	13	183	184	120	107	185	885
CHO 6	Dublin South East	30	10	2	0	0	20	7	1	0	0	70
	Dun Laoghaire	6	3	6	0	0	29	42	22	11	0	119
	Wicklow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	CHO6 Total	36	13	8	0	0	49	49	23	11	0	189
CHO 7	Dublin South City	0	7	6	7	16	3	12	29	36	117	233

	Dublin South West	10	19	26	19	71	16	19	15	27	142	364
	Dublin West	6	13	6	4	12	21	50	63	52	190	417
	Kildare West Wicklow	3	1	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	1	11
	CHO7 Total	19	40	38	30	99	46	81	107	115	450	1,025
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	4	1	8	0	0	45	25	31	2	2	118
	Longford Westmeath	1	1	0	0	0	24	33	10	0	0	69
	Louth	24	14	0	2	0	79	20	7	1	0	147
	Meath	13	10	3	0	0	112	104	65	11	0	318
	CHO8 Total	42	26	11	2	0	260	182	113	14	2	652
CHO 9	Dublin North	5	10	8	16	63	57	98	75	50	295	677
	Dublin Nth Central	6	9	11	19	11	8	11	27	60	30	192
	Dublin North West	10	17	10	11	30	50	63	62	90	480	823
	CHO9 Total	21	36	29	46	104	115	172	164	200	805	1,692
National Total		303	260	156	131	259	1,195	1,234	1,068	876	3,017	8,499

Note: February data not returned for Wicklow