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11th March 2020

Deputy Stephen Donnelly
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 3416/20 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons in each LHO area waiting for an audiology appointment in primary care at the end of February 2020 or the latest date available; and the number waiting 0 to 12, 12 to 26, 26 to 52 and more than 52 weeks

-Stephen Donnelly

Dear Deputy Donnelly,

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.

Audiology is one of a range of multi-disciplinary services provided through Primary Care in Community Healthcare Organisations. Audiology services provide assessment, information and intervention for children and eligible adults with potential or suspected difficulties with their hearing, auditory function, or balance, or with tinnitus.

Please find attached Appendix 1 which contains, in tabular form, details of the waiting list for Audiology in community services as of January 2020. Please note that February waiting list data as requested will not be generated until the end of March.

Please note that where there is a zero in a particular field in most instances this means there is nobody on the waiting list for the particular LHO / period of time waiting. It is important to note that the overall total in the attachments represents the entirety of the waiting lists. The HSE is working to ensure timely access to children and adults requiring audiology services, and to reduce long waiting times for this important service.

The HSE is committed to delivering efficient high quality audiology services to all eligible service users. In 2019 there were 55,526 attendances at HSE community audiology clinics.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Siobhán McArdle', written over a light grey rectangular background.

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Siobhán McArdle,
Head of Operations Primary Care,
Community Operations