



Holly Cairns TD  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

16<sup>th</sup> November 2020

PQ 33941/20

**“To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the 13,419 persons aged under 18 years of age that are awaiting an initial assessment of speech and language therapy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Holly Cairns”**

Dear Deputy Cairns,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 33941/20), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE have developed a formal programme of work under the governance of the Chief Clinical Officer and Chief Operations Officer namely the Continuity of System Wide Healthcare Services Steering Group. The focus is to plan the recommencement of the delivery of Non-COVID Services to address ongoing clinical demands while maintaining capacity for COVID-19 rapid response.

A date for the full resumption of routine services has not been set but the preparatory work in terms of infrastructure readiness to ensure a clean and safe environment is underway. Every effort will be made to restore all Non-COVID services as soon as possible in the context of “A safe return to health services – restoring services in a Covid Environment” and public health guidance as it evolves through implementation of the Governments “Resilience and Recovery 2020 – 2021: Plan for Living with Covid-19”.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic of level of service continued to be provided for those adult and paediatric referrals to speech and language for those referrals which were considered to be a priority.

The latest available waiting lists are at the end of September 200. Please see attached waiting lists;

- Appendix 1 – Speech and Language – Number of Patients aged under 18 years of age awaiting initial Assessment at September 2020.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

**Siobhán Mc Ardle**

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 - September 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	177	143	400	93	31	0	844
Donegal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sligo Leitrim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CHO1</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>844</b>
Galway	344	381	126	80	3	10	944
Mayo	219	20	20	15	0	0	274
Roscommon	72	2	0	0	0	0	74
<b>CHO2</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1,292</b>
Clare	155	107	29	46	8	2	347
Limerick	218	161	145	20	23	25	592
North Tipperary East Limerick	171	162	106	49	29	0	517
<b>CHO3</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1,456</b>
Kerry	138	5	0	0	0	0	143
North Cork	145	11	0	0	0	0	156
North Lee	166	108	20	0	0	0	294
South Lee	215	23	0	7	3	13	261
West Cork	70	6	0	0	0	0	76
<b>CHO4</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>930</b>
Carlow Kilkenny	137	137	74	0	0	0	348
South Tipperary	98	41	13	1	0	0	153
Waterford	77	89	193	1	0	0	360
Wexford	156	158	378	137	0	0	829
<b>CHO5</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>658</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,690</b>
Dublin South East	75	59	10	9	9	8	170
Dun Laoghaire	63	15	22	0	0	0	100
Wicklow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CHO6</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>270</b>
Dublin South City	94	119	107	41	14	17	392
Dublin South West	187	117	152	44	78	373	951
Dublin West	76	141	255	241	133	11	857
Kildare West Wicklow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CHO7</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>2,200</b>
Laos Offaly	394	279	213	0	0	0	886
Longford Westmeath	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Louth	192	72	0	0	0	0	264
Meath	85	56	76	23	0	0	240
<b>CHO8</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,390</b>
Dublin North	192	392	505	316	87	0	1,492
Dublin North Central	85	108	174	214	24	0	605
Dublin North West	135	219	325	259	127	39	1,104
<b>CHO9</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>1,004</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>3,201</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,136</b>	<b>3,131</b>	<b>3,343</b>	<b>1,596</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>13,273</b>

Note : September data not returned for Donegal and Kildare/West Wicklow.