



13<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Deputy Cathal Crowe,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 34259/20 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of children under 18 years of age waiting for an audiology appointment in primary care at the end of October 2020 or the latest date available; the number waiting less than 4, 4 to 12 and more than 12 months for each local health office area in tabular form**

**-Cathal Crowe**

Dear Deputy Crowe,

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.

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 find attached Appendix 1 which contains, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists in Audiology for patients aged 0 – 17 years as of September 2020, which is the latest available data at this time.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Siobhán McArdle', written on a light-colored background.

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Siobhán McArdle,  
Head of Operations Primary Care,  
Community Operations

## Appendix 1: Audiology - Number of Patients aged 0 - 17 years waiting for treatment September 2020

CHO	Former LHO	0 - 4 Years					5 - 17 Years					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	1	8	9	14	19	7	5	20	16	40	139
	Donegal	37	9	30	9	27	24	24	33	14	128	335
	Sligo Leitrim	25	36	31	13	8	20	43	20	8	1	205
	<b>CHO1 Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>679</b>
CHO 2	Galway	34	21	108	45	22	45	29	43	45	46	438
	Mayo	35	19	40	3	0	20	10	55	16	0	198
	Roscommon	25	16	36	10	0	20	11	28	4	0	150
	<b>CHO2 Total</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>786</b>
CHO 3	Clare	11	4	19	16	23	17	3	22	13	6	134
	Limerick	18	82	55	30	120	12	55	40	20	30	462
	North Tipperary East Limerick	0	0	0	0	8	5	3	16	15	40	87
	<b>CHO3 Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>683</b>
CHO 4	Kerry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	North Cork	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	North Lee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	South Lee	257	228	311	137	468	210	213	149	132	145	2,250
	West Cork	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>CHO4 Total</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>2,250</b>
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	17	15	46	35	97	10	5	17	12	17	271
	South Tipperary	18	19	36	33	103	26	55	37	15	41	383
	Waterford	17	11	39	37	145	9	7	24	13	140	442
	Wexford	27	11	27	24	107	16	15	68	35	141	471
	<b>CHO5 Total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>1,567</b>
CHO 6	Dublin South East	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Dun Laoghaire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Wicklow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>CHO6 Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
CHO 7	Dublin South City	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Dublin South West	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Dublin West	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Kildare West Wicklow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>CHO7 Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	50	51	29	36	38	54	52	90	108	375	883
	Longford Westmeath	101	60	52	45	280	71	47	53	48	159	916
	Louth	5	4	12	9	16	13	10	31	24	0	124
	Meath	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>CHO8 Total</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>1,923</b>
CHO 9	Dublin North	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Dublin Nth Central	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Dublin North West	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHO9 Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
National Total	678	594	880	496	1,481	579	587	746	538	1,309	7,888	

**Note: September data not returned for Dublin South West, Kildare West Wicklow and Dublin North Central**