



13th November 2020

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

PQ 34260/20 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of children under 18 years of age waiting for an ophthalmology appointment in primary care at the end of October 2020 or the latest date available; the numbers 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 for Ophthalmology appointments 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.

Pp

Siobhán McArdle,
Head of Operations Primary Care,
Community Operations

Appendix 1: Ophthalmology - 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 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 | 35 | 65 | 50 | 41 | 33 | 17 | 9 | 99 | 174 | 62 | 585 |
| | Donegal | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Sligo Leitrim | 65 | 16 | 83 | 13 | 7 | 38 | 4 | 52 | 8 | 11 | 297 |
| | CHO1 Total | 100 | 81 | 133 | 54 | 40 | 55 | 13 | 151 | 182 | 73 | 882 |
| CHO 2 | Galway | 203 | 72 | 241 | 253 | 1,368 | 91 | 14 | 159 | 117 | 301 | 2,819 |
| | Mayo | 73 | 19 | 55 | 49 | 112 | 37 | 0 | 55 | 34 | 24 | 458 |
| | Roscommon | 16 | 27 | 84 | 143 | 348 | 12 | 17 | 31 | 56 | 93 | 827 |
| | CHO2 Total | 292 | 118 | 380 | 445 | 1,828 | 140 | 31 | 245 | 207 | 418 | 4,104 |
| CHO 3 | Clare | 31 | 12 | 26 | 18 | 19 | 45 | 2 | 78 | 103 | 35 | 369 |
| | Limerick | 21 | 9 | 16 | 8 | 7 | 27 | 6 | 67 | 33 | 46 | 240 |
| | North Tipperary East Limerick | 21 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 95 | 25 | 82 | 31 | 39 | 332 |
| | CHO3 Total | 73 | 30 | 51 | 36 | 37 | 167 | 33 | 227 | 167 | 120 | 941 |
| CHO 4 | Kerry | 30 | 10 | 28 | 12 | 21 | 39 | 13 | 95 | 43 | 318 | 609 |
| | North Cork | 49 | 23 | 62 | 38 | 102 | 20 | 13 | 37 | 55 | 139 | 538 |
| | North Lee | 101 | 35 | 31 | 12 | 14 | 30 | 22 | 107 | 40 | 90 | 482 |
| | South Lee | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | West Cork | 4 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 16 | 4 | 0 | 38 |
| | CHO4 Total | 184 | 68 | 125 | 64 | 137 | 94 | 51 | 255 | 142 | 547 | 1,667 |
| CHO 5 | Carlow Kilkenny | 56 | 17 | 27 | 3 | 5 | 53 | 11 | 37 | 6 | 2 | 217 |
| | South Tipperary | 70 | 70 | 102 | 49 | 233 | 11 | 5 | 65 | 20 | 36 | 661 |
| | Waterford | 33 | 19 | 60 | 24 | 15 | 19 | 6 | 35 | 5 | 0 | 216 |
| | Wexford | 83 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 68 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 151 |
| | CHO5 Total | 242 | 106 | 189 | 76 | 253 | 151 | 22 | 137 | 31 | 38 | 1,245 |
| 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 | 251 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 185 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 436 |
| | CHO6 Total | 251 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 185 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 436 |
| 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 | 85 | 46 | 142 | 130 | 153 | 26 | 7 | 129 | 39 | 50 | 807 |
| | CHO7 Total | 85 | 46 | 142 | 130 | 153 | 26 | 7 | 129 | 39 | 50 | 807 |
| CHO 8 | Laois Offaly | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Longford Westmeath | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Louth | 14 | 22 | 43 | 36 | 191 | 14 | 24 | 108 | 59 | 134 | 645 |
| | Meath | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | CHO8 Total | 14 | 22 | 43 | 36 | 191 | 14 | 24 | 108 | 59 | 134 | 645 |
| CHO 9 | Dublin North | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Dublin Nth Central | 45 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 10 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 16 | 95 |
| | Dublin North West | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | CHO9 Total | 45 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 10 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 16 | 95 |
| National Total | | 1,286 | 472 | 1,065 | 841 | 2,645 | 842 | 183 | 1,257 | 835 | 1,396 | 10,822 |

Note: September data not returned for Donegal and Meath