



13<sup>th</sup> November 2020

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

**PQ 34261/20 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of children under 18 years of age waiting for a dietetic appointment in primary care at the end of October 2020 or the latest date available; and within that the numbers waiting less than 4, 4 to 12 and more than 12 months for each local health office 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 Dietetics 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 in a cursive style.

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Siobhán McArdle,  
Head of Operations Primary Care,  
Community Operations

## Appendix 1: Dietetics - 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	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	6	12
	Donegal	12	6	4	1	0	13	5	11	4	1	57
	Sligo Leitrim	17	2	3	1	0	21	4	6	2	1	57
	<b>CHO1 Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>126</b>
CHO 2	Galway	48	28	42	48	65	6	21	26	12	25	321
	Mayo	10	2	5	7	5	8	5	8	23	52	125
	Roscommon	4	3	15	6	20	2	4	9	11	28	102
	<b>CHO2 Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>548</b>
CHO 3	Clare	10	4	8	6	14	17	15	5	3	49	131
	Limerick	53	14	7	17	51	78	9	15	11	210	465
	North Tipperary East Limerick	4	3	8	15	35	3	1	2	3	55	129
	<b>CHO3 Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>725</b>
CHO 4	Kerry	25	1	0	0	1	20	2	1	0	0	50
	North Cork	13	0	1	0	0	10	0	1	0	0	25
	North Lee	32	3	3	0	0	16	1	2	1	0	58
	South Lee	38	3	4	0	0	18	1	1	0	0	65
	West Cork	14	0	1	3	0	7	0	4	1	0	30
	<b>CHO4 Total</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>228</b>
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	5	20	29	18	72	4	3	21	14	73	259
	South Tipperary	12	8	20	15	55	18	19	18	5	81	251
	Waterford	15	14	57	34	44	23	13	27	20	71	318
	Wexford	8	10	24	19	27	8	7	22	13	108	246
	<b>CHO5 Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>1,074</b>
CHO 6	Dublin South East	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Dun Laoghaire	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Wicklow	7	1	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	13
	<b>CHO6 Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>
CHO 7	Dublin South City	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Dublin South West	34	20	64	33	34	7	7	21	30	2	252
	Dublin West	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Kildare West Wicklow	42	12	56	41	9	10	4	23	26	25	248
	<b>CHO7 Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>500</b>
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	14	9	7	1	1	17	17	24	12	0	102
	Longford Westmeath	38	8	24	11	7	26	14	29	19	12	188
	Louth	1	2	24	26	53	2	3	6	9	36	162
	Meath	7	3	2	1	9	9	1	1	1	2	36
	<b>CHO8 Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>488</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	470	176	408	303	502	347	159	285	220	837	3,707	

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