



13th November 2020

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

PQ 34266/20 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of children under 18 years of age waiting for occupational therapy 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 for first time Occupational Therapy assessment 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: Occupational Therapy - Number of Patients aged 0 -17 years Awaiting First Time Assessment September 2020

CHO	Former LHO	0 - 4 Yrs 11 Months					5 - 17 Yrs 11 Months					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	17	14	27	25	49	33	44	55	61	609	934
	Donegal	21	12	35	12	22	24	31	18	26	50	251
	Sligo Leitrim	18	14	20	9	4	11	23	31	32	28	190
	CHO1 Total	56	40	82	46	75	68	98	104	119	687	1,375
CHO 2	Galway	17	6	5	4	0	31	22	52	46	66	249
	Mayo	13	25	18	20	129	15	24	46	60	744	1,094
	Roscommon	16	0	6	7	9	28	84	69	120	448	787
	CHO2 Total	46	31	29	31	138	74	130	167	226	1,258	2,130
CHO 3	Clare	2	1	1	0	0	16	10	29	6	0	65
	Limerick	5	3	17	0	0	26	9	27	9	0	96
	North Tipperary East Limerick	5	2	2	0	2	11	9	49	18	19	117
	CHO3 Total	12	6	20	0	2	53	28	105	33	19	278
CHO 4	Kerry	19	9	16	15	17	24	13	58	46	376	593
	North Cork	16	6	20	7	36	11	16	45	41	284	482
	North Lee	39	34	41	19	26	26	58	134	98	759	1,234
	South Lee	23	23	21	1	6	73	61	98	58	208	572
	West Cork	5	3	4	5	9	23	24	47	36	129	285
	CHO4 Total	102	75	102	47	94	157	172	382	279	1,756	3,166
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	South Tipperary	12	11	24	30	77	47	28	72	69	223	593
	Waterford	25	18	44	17	142	41	45	128	49	480	989
	Wexford	38	19	48	27	119	54	60	135	115	777	1,392
	CHO5 Total	75	48	116	74	338	142	133	335	233	1,480	2,974
CHO 6	Dublin South East	5	8	16	5	28	12	15	44	13	84	230
	Dun Laoghaire	12	24	12	30	38	9	9	41	35	143	353
	Wicklow	10	11	20	14	84	22	37	79	92	570	939
	CHO6 Total	27	43	48	49	150	43	61	164	140	797	1,522
CHO 7	Dublin South City	26	8	15	8	40	31	15	24	38	46	251
	Dublin South West	6	6	7	8	86	13	12	38	46	662	884
	Dublin West	5	15	50	43	109	39	35	64	168	154	682
	Kildare West Wicklow	1	7	14	13	32	19	38	71	72	714	981
	CHO7 Total	38	36	86	72	267	102	100	197	324	1,576	2,798
CHO 8	Laos Offaly	45	76	85	70	241	90	74	180	130	1,013	2,004
	Longford Westmeath	125	31	84	43	7	100	31	66	36	4	527
	Louth	26	32	51	19	54	23	44	84	64	381	778
	Meath	14	13	23	19	4	83	124	150	154	82	666
	CHO8 Total	210	152	243	151	306	296	273	480	384	1,480	3,975
CHO 9	Dublin North	29	43	55	53	244	59	78	70	74	584	1,289
	Dublin Nth Central	22	20	25	23	30	21	14	54	21	125	355

Dublin North West	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHO9 Total	51	63	80	76	274	80	92	124	95	709	1,644	
National Total	617	494	806	546	1,644	1,015	1,087	2,058	1,833	9,762	19,862	

Note: September data not returned for Carlow/Kilkenny and Dublin North west.