



Catherine Murphy TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

4th November 2020

PQ 31848/20

“To ask the Minister for Health the date on which adult and paediatric audiology services and speech therapy services will resume; and the number of waiting lists as of 15 October 2020 for each of the services by location. -Catherine Murphy”

Dear Deputy Murphy,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 31848/20), 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”.

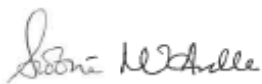
Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic a level of level of service continued to be provided for those adult and paediatric audiology referrals and speech and language therapy referrals considered to be a priority.

The HSE reports on activity data for audiology and speech and language therapy on a monthly basis. The latest available waiting lists are at the end of September 2020. Please see attached waiting lists;

- Appendix 1 – Audiology – Number of Patients waiting for treatment at September 2020. The data is broken down by age category
- Appendix 2 – Speech and Language Therapy – Total Number of patients awaiting Initial Assessment at September 2020. Note that this includes data for adults and children combined
- Appendix 3 – Speech and Language Therapy – Number of patients aged under 18 years old awaiting Initial Assessment at September 2020.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Siobhán Mc Ardle'.

Siobhán Mc Ardle

Head of Operations: Primary Care

Community Operations