



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

**Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,**  
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,  
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

**Office of the Head of Operations,**  
Disability Services/Social Care Division,  
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29<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Deputy Paul Kehoe  
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Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
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Dear Deputy Kehoe

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary questions, which were submitted to this department for response.

**PQ 30473/20**

*To ask the Minister for Health the number of occupational therapy appointments provided for children under the age of 16 with a disability for each of the years 2015 to 2019, by county in tabular form.*

**PQ 31874/20**

*To ask the Minister for Health the number of speech and language appointments provided for children with a disability under the age of 16 in each of the years 2015 to 2019, by county in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

**PQ 31872/20**

*To ask the Minister for Health the number of physiotherapy appointments provided per year and county for children with a disability under the age of 16 over a five year period from 2015 to 2019, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter*

**HSE Response**

Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational therapy and Physiotherapy Services are provided through Primary Care Teams in CHO Areas to children and young people requiring assessment, diagnosis and treatment and in the case of Speech and Language Therapy, for language and communication difficulties and feeding and swallowing difficulties.

Primary Care Operations compiles the data for SLT, OT and Physiotherapy waiting lists and has provided the most recently available data to answer this query. Please note that there is no breakdown available within numbers seen for those with a Disability – for both OT and Physiotherapy.

Please note the following information:

- The available information from primary care (Qlikview system in use), is for 2017 and subsequent years only.
- For each of these services, the number of appointments provided for persons with a disability is not reported.
- Data is not reported for children under 16 years old. The available reported information is for children under 18 years old
- Regarding OT, the reported information is the number of patients aged under 18 years old seen for a First Time Assessment.
- Regarding SLT, the reported information is the number of patients aged under 18 years old seen for Initial Assessment. There is no capacity to provide the information for persons with a disability.
- Regarding Physiotherapy, there is no age breakdown for the numbers of patients seen. The reported information is the number of referrals accepted for patients aged under 18 years old

The tables in the attached appendices give the following information:

**Appendix 1:** Occupational Therapy: Number of patients aged under 18 years old seen for a First Time Assessment in 2017 – 2019.

**Appendix 2:** Speech and Language Therapy :Number of patients aged under 18 years old seen for Initial Assessment in 2017 – 2019

**Appendix 3:** Physiotherapy: Number of patients aged under 18 years old - referrals accepted in 2017 – 2019

Whilst accepting that significant levels of vital therapies were temporarily curtailed due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, processes are underway in order to plan for the reintroduction of non-Covid services.

The Governments Resilience & Recovery Framework (2020 – 2021), the HSE regards the provision of disability services as essential to maintaining a response to people with a disability. All disability services must follow public health guidance in this area, including the prevention and management of COVID-19 related infection. The HSE and its funded disability partners will continue to provide disability services in line with public health guidance and direction and having regard to the availability of staffing resources.

Reference is drawn to the following HSE weblink which provides updates and guidance for disability service providers, including 'service resumption planning guidance'.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/newsfeatures/covid19-updates/partner-resources/>

Attention is also drawn to the following important web links which provides up to date information resources in respect of COVID-19.

[www.hspc.ie](http://www.hspc.ie)

<https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/c36c85-covid-19-coronavirus/>

The HSE and Service Providers recognise the critical need and importance of disability supports for people and their families. The impact of COVID-19 on people's lives has and continues to be very significant. Our collective aim is to restore services in a safe way and in line with the very significant investment made by the State and funded agencies and we will continue to work with service users and their families/carers to ensure that we achieve this aim.

In addition, the HSE welcomes the recent announcement from Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly TD and Minister of State for Disability Anne Rabbitte TD that €10 million is being made available to support the resumption of day services and enhanced home support services for disability service users. The €10 million funding is being drawn down from the National Action Plan on COVID-19 - €7.5 million will increase the level of day service provision and €2.5 million will provide intensive support packages for children and young people with complex/high support needs.

In the context of the current ongoing pandemic, it is important to be aware that in line with current NPHEA advice in respect of level 5 restrictions currently in place, disability services are termed as essential “Human health and social work activities” and will continue to remain open. The weblink below provides a list of what is termed as essential:

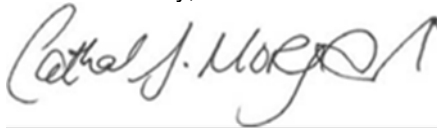
<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/c9158-essential-services/#human-health-and-social-work-activities>

### **Sláintecare Funding**

In addition to the measures above, €7.8 million has been allocated by Sláintecare to facilitate the HSE and its funded service providers to address the overdue Assessments of Need.

This funding has been provided on a once off basis and is strictly time limited. Each CHO has an agreed plan that will focus on completing assessments in as timely a fashion as possible, having regard to significant competing priorities with regard to COVID-19.

Yours sincerely,



**Dr. Cathal Morgan,  
Head of Operations - Disability Services,  
Community Operations**

## Appendix 1

Occupational Therapy - Number of patients aged under 18 years old seen for a First Time Assessment in 2017 - 2019			
LHO	2017	2018	2019
Cavan Monaghan	2,532	2,767	3,120
Donegal	3,749	3,896	3,817
Sligo Leitrim	2,075	3,032	3,776
CHO1	8,356	9,695	10,713
Galway	3,986	4,206	4,306
Mayo	2,973	3,200	2,876
Roscommon	1,672	2,185	2,228
CHO2	8,631	9,591	9,410
Clare	953	1,142	1,001
Limerick	1,142	914	868
North Tipperary East Limerick	955	777	1,089
CHO3	3,050	2,833	2,958
Kerry	3,656	4,144	3,190
North Cork	574	938	1,263
North Lee	2,927	3,164	4,355
South Lee	4,226	4,807	5,599
West Cork	1,160	982	1,293
CHO4	12,543	14,035	15,700
Carlow Kilkenny	5,181	4,861	3,867
South Tipperary	2,573	2,728	2,420
Waterford	2,980	3,288	3,141
Wexford	3,442	3,933	4,545
CHO5	14,176	14,810	13,973
Dublin South East	1,491	2,504	2,417
Dun Laoghaire	2,076	1,644	2,376
Wicklow	1,826	2,026	1,883
CHO6	5,393	6,174	6,676
Dublin South City	2,339	2,462	2,973
Dublin South West	2,751	2,951	3,853
Dublin West	3,945	5,681	6,092
Kildare West Wicklow	4,176	5,191	6,270
CHO7	13,211	16,285	19,188
Laois Offaly	6,824	7,824	7,121
Longford Westmeath	6,535	7,004	6,985
Louth	2,492	3,426	3,694
Meath	3,748	5,098	3,968
CHO8	19,599	23,352	21,768
Dublin North	3,088	2,736	2,787
Dublin North Central	1,475	1,709	1,875
Dublin North West	3,852	4,686	5,230
CHO9	8,415	9,131	9,892
Total	93,374	105,906	110,278

## Appendix 2

Speech and Language Therapy - Number of patients aged under 18 years old seen for Initial Assessment in 2017 - 2019			
LHO	2017	2018	2019
Cavan Monaghan	8,244	9,603	10,824
Donegal	12,858	10,843	9,619
Sligo Leitrim	5,176	5,898	6,094
CHO1	26,278	26,344	26,537
Galway	14,682	13,937	13,079
Mayo	7,312	9,074	9,848
Roscommon	6,753	7,127	7,265
CHO2	28,747	30,138	30,192
Clare	4,491	4,402	4,792
Limerick	7,136	8,786	8,547
North Tipperary East Limerick	4,485	3,931	3,593
CHO3	16,112	17,119	16,932
Kerry	10,630	9,740	9,738
North Cork	3,987	4,206	3,907
North Lee	9,653	8,852	9,339
South Lee	11,991	11,389	11,912
West Cork	4,175	4,347	3,848
CHO4	40,436	38,534	38,744
Carlow Kilkenny	6,536	6,718	6,191
South Tipperary	6,074	6,541	5,661
Waterford	7,599	6,445	7,317
Wexford	10,834	10,609	11,914
CHO5	31,043	30,313	31,083
Dublin South East	2,591	2,626	2,487
Dun Laoghaire	4,097	3,537	3,840
Wicklow	6,033	5,356	3,496
CHO6	12,721	11,519	9,823
Dublin South City	4,012	2,723	2,672
Dublin South West	5,741	6,257	4,765
Dublin West	6,802	6,979	6,865
Kildare West Wicklow	8,574	7,685	8,067
CHO7	25,129	23,644	22,369
Laois Offaly	8,431	8,020	8,359
Longford Westmeath	8,343	7,784	7,246
Louth	7,602	8,860	8,925
Meath	11,920	11,584	10,957
CHO8	36,296	36,248	35,487
Dublin North	10,000	8,615	9,503
Dublin North Central	8,484	8,286	7,961
Dublin North West	9,246	9,525	7,522
CHO9	27,730	26,426	24,986
Total	244,492	240,285	236,153

### Appendix 3

Physiotherapy - Number of patients aged under 18 years old - referrals accepted in 2017 - 2019			
LHO	2017	2018	2019
Cavan Monaghan	1,078	1,146	1,153
Donegal	1,238	1,165	1,331
Sligo Leitrim	818	881	864
<b>CHO1</b>	<b>3,134</b>	<b>3,192</b>	<b>3,348</b>
Galway	1,367	1,427	1,409
Mayo	686	416	598
Roscommon	756	680	631
<b>CHO2</b>	<b>2,809</b>	<b>2,523</b>	<b>2,638</b>
Clare	407	483	473
Limerick	1,019	1,101	990
North Tipperary East Limerick	552	657	667
<b>CHO3</b>	<b>1,978</b>	<b>2,241</b>	<b>2,130</b>
Kerry	1,073	1,080	1,566
North Cork	473	551	584
North Lee	1,015	1,131	849
South Lee	586	640	628
West Cork	342	313	433
<b>CHO4</b>	<b>3,489</b>	<b>3,715</b>	<b>4,060</b>
Carlow Kilkenny	1,361	1,356	1,339
South Tipperary	789	847	901
Waterford	713	808	776
Wexford	781	830	892
<b>CHO5</b>	<b>3,644</b>	<b>3,841</b>	<b>3,908</b>
Dublin South East	875	707	646
Dun Laoghaire	403	632	678
Wicklow	1,080	1,059	791
<b>CHO6</b>	<b>2,358</b>	<b>2,398</b>	<b>2,115</b>
Dublin South City	552	460	548
Dublin South West	913	1,178	879
Dublin West	857	1,300	1,319
Kildare West Wicklow	1,283	1,151	1,124
<b>CHO7</b>	<b>3,605</b>	<b>4,089</b>	<b>3,870</b>
Laois Offaly	1,539	1,523	1,550
Longford Westmeath	1,247	1,142	708
Louth	949	863	821
Meath	1,313	1,454	1,609
<b>CHO8</b>	<b>5,048</b>	<b>4,982</b>	<b>4,688</b>
Dublin North	651	725	852
Dublin North Central	724	781	590
Dublin North West	947	728	866
<b>CHO9</b>	<b>2,322</b>	<b>2,234</b>	<b>2,308</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,387</b>	<b>29,215</b>	<b>29,065</b>