



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Office of the Head of Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare
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21st September 2020

Mr. Johnny Mythen TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 22357/20

To ask the Minister for Health his plans to deal with the waiting lists for speech and language therapy in County Wexford.

Dear Deputy Mythen,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have examined the matter and the following response outlines the current position.

The Speech & Language Therapy (SLT) Department, like all services, has been working within COVID-19 restrictions which have been in place since mid-March 2020 when all but priority Speech & Language therapy clinics were suspended. This has had a knock on effect on wait times for assessment and interventions.

The SLT service, as part of the HSE response, put in place emergency measures to deliver and manage the provision of healthcare in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

Due to this pandemic, the SLT Service has developed new ways of working with clients and their families through tele-practice which is now operational with those clients for whom it is appropriate.

Face-to face clinics have resumed but are constrained by the numbers that can be safely seen due to COVID-19 restrictions.

In addition, there are staffing vacancies in the Wexford SLT Department at present making it challenging to provide a timely service to all service users. South East Community Healthcare Primary Care continues to fill approved posts in line with HSE Recruitment and National Pay-bill Management Framework. There are also SLT posts currently in the process of being filled through national recruitment.

Please be assured that the HSE SLT Service monitors the waiting list on an ongoing basis in the overall context of available resources and prioritisation criteria.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,


Jeanne Hendrick
A/Head of Service-Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare