



8th September 2020

Patricia Ryan
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 22700/20

To ask The Minister for Health if he will address the backlog in the number of persons awaiting a speech and language appointment in CH07; and if he will make a statement on the matter.
Patricia Ryan

Dear Deputy Ryan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your parliamentary question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Currently the majority of Speech & Language Therapy, (SLT) appointments have been postponed due to the COVID-19 restrictions and redeployment of staff. The clearance of the backlog of persons awaiting SLT appointments will be undertaken in accordance with their place on the waiting lists with the recommencement of services.

The following table indicates the current waiting times, please note the numbers given are for adults and paediatric caseloads from both Primary Care and Social Care with the exception of the Kildare West Wicklow numbers which are exclusively Primary Care numbers.

Waiting Times	KWW	DSC	DW	DSW	Total CH07
0-4mths	250	103	87	231	671
4-8mths	401	210	297	285	1193
8-12mths	136	81	216	45	478
12-18mths	0	30	212	49	291
18-24mths	0	20	83	4	107
24mth+	0	46	6	415	467
Total Initial Assessment	787	490	901	1029	3207
0-4mths	26	50	26	28	130
4-8mths	69	126	145	99	439
8-12mths	4	102	205	96	407
12-18mths	0	108	145	102	355

18-24mths	0	50	105	46	201
24mth+	0	85	95	22	202
Total Initial Therapy	99	521	721	393	1734
0-4mths	255	62	11	54	382
4-8mths	629	170	184	194	1177
8-12mths	90	150	223	229	692
12-18mths	40	118	271	156	585
18-24mths	0	52	50	72	172
24mth+	0	88	235	42	365
Total Further Therapy	974	640	574	747	2935
Total Waiting Lists	1860	1651	2196	2169	7876

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

Yours sincerely,

Mary O'Kelly General Manager Primary Care Services

Mary O'Kelly
Head of Service
Primary Care