



National Director, Community Operations
Dr. Steevens Hospital, Dublin 8, DO8 W2A8
Tel: 01 6352596 Email: communityoperations@hse.ie

Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta, Oibríochtaí Pobail
Ospidéal Dr. Steevens' Baile Atha Cliath 8, DO8 W2A8
T 01 6352596 R: communityoperations@hse.ie

14th October 2020

Deputy Claire Kerrane,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 26144/20 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of children on waiting lists for all types of assessments, including speech and language per county; and if he will make a statement on the matter

-Claire Kerrane

Dear Deputy Kerrane,

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. Additionally, the HSE has developed guidance for clinicians involved in assessment work with guidance that facilitates *eHealth* intervention for people seeking assessment and intervention. Separately, I am pleased to confirm that a special initiative under Slaintecare has been approved and is being implemented for children with a disability and awaiting an assessment of need. Specifically, Government has approved €7.8 million in order to deal with the significant backlog of children awaiting their assessment. Further detail relating to this scheme can be located at <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/c3b30-ministers-donnely-and-rabbitte-announce-78m-slaintecare-initiative-to-clear-assessment-of-need-backlog-for-children/>

As a result of the national effort across all Community Healthcare Organisations throughout the country, some aspects of normal monthly reporting have been delayed for certain lists. Preliminary data currently available reflects the period to the end of August 2020 which is the latest data available at this time.

For the purposes of the above question, assessments for services in Community Primary Care, Mental Health and Disability Services for children have been provided. Please see attached appendices which contain the following in tabular form'

Appendix 1 - Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Initial Assessment - August 2020

Appendix 2 – Occupational Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Initial Assessment
- August 2020

Appendix 3 – Physiotherapy – Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting assessment

Appendix 4 – Assessment of Need – Applications overdue for Completion in Q2 2020

Appendix 5 – Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Waiting List in – August 2020

The HSE is working to ensure timely access to children and 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,



Pp

Yvonne O'Neill,
Interim National Director,
Community Operations

Appendix 1 - Speech and Language Therapy - Number patients awaiting Initial Assessment - August 2020

LHO	0 to 4 Mths	4 months & 1 day - 8 months	8 months & 1 day - 12 months	12 months & 1 day - 18 months	18 months & 1 day to 24 months	>24 months	Total
Cavan Monaghan	153	285	278	33	2	0	751
Donegal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sligo Leitrim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHO1	153	285	278	33	2	0	751
Galway	309	373	75	55	28	10	850
Mayo	159	28	20	12	0	0	219
Roscommon	44	2	0	0	0	0	46
CHO2	512	403	95	67	28	10	1,115
Clare	129	116	13	52	7	0	317
Limerick	192	213	106	19	24	25	579
North Tipperary East Limerick	150	200	119	60	16	0	545
CHO3	471	529	238	131	47	25	1,441
Kerry	96	13	0	0	0	0	109
North Cork	100	9	0	0	0	0	109
North Lee	193	118	24	0	0	0	335
South Lee	190	14	0	7	3	13	227
West Cork	71	14	0	0	0	0	85
CHO4	650	168	24	7	3	13	865
Carlow Kilkenny	94	181	61	0	0	0	336
South Tipperary	75	69	33	2	0	0	179
Waterford	77	175	117	0	0	0	369
Wexford	87	216	364	138	0	0	805
CHO5	333	641	575	140	0	0	1,689
Dublin South East	55	33	12	10	8	0	118
Dun Laoghaire	88	28	20	41	27	2	206
Wicklow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHO6	143	61	32	51	35	2	324
Dublin South City	64	146	79	37	17	45	388
Dublin South West	158	216	61	57	78	373	943
Dublin West	52	200	227	227	116	6	828
Kildare West Wicklow	201	308	189	0	0	0	698
CHO7	475	870	556	321	211	424	2,857
Laois Offaly	300	675	1	0	0	0	976
Longford Westmeath	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Louth	157	116	0	0	0	0	273
Meath	27	91	126	61	0	0	305
CHO8	484	882	127	61	0	0	1,554
Dublin North	191	527	460	347	71	0	1,596
Dublin North Central	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dublin North West	114	274	343	308	156	32	1,227
CHO9	305	801	803	655	227	32	2,823
Total	3,526	4,640	2,728	1,466	553	506	13,419

Note : August data not returned for Donegal, Sligo Leitrim and Dublin North Central.

Appendix 2: Occupational Therapy - Number of Patients Awaiting First Time Assessment August 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	19	10	37	35	32	32	43	54	55	619	936
	Donegal	23	21	21	21	13	34	17	25	28	40	243
	Sligo Leitrim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	CHO1 Total	42	31	58	56	45	66	60	79	83	659	1,179
CHO 2	Galway	4	2	8	1	0	8	31	38	29	0	121
	Mayo	27	20	22	18	124	15	28	56	51	727	1,088
	Roscommon	19	3	8	5	8	20	87	71	121	459	801
	CHO2 Total	50	25	38	24	132	43	146	165	201	1,186	2,010
CHO 3	Clare	2	1	2	0	0	16	13	22	5	1	62
	Limerick	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	North Tipperary East Limerick	3	2	2	2	1	14	28	41	23	15	131
	CHO3 Total	5	3	4	2	1	30	41	63	28	16	193
CHO 4	Kerry	18	6	16	19	18	20	33	54	51	370	605
	North Cork	4	6	8	4	5	12	22	45	31	259	396
	North Lee	43	39	31	15	27	36	107	120	115	662	1,195
	South Lee	18	30	20	6	7	48	68	116	59	212	584
	West Cork	7	4	4	8	5	17	25	50	35	121	276
	CHO4 Total	90	85	79	52	62	133	255	385	291	1,624	3,056
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	31	45	50	49	80	50	52	78	85	235	755
	South Tipperary	10	10	28	41	71	44	39	82	56	223	604
	Waterford	16	12	30	23	139	22	41	66	48	411	808
	Wexford	34	21	50	23	126	52	72	135	107	765	1,385
	CHO5 Total	91	88	158	136	416	168	204	361	296	1,634	3,552
CHO 6	Dublin South East	4	3	17	3	27	9	18	40	16	84	221
	Dun Laoghaire	15	21	10	33	43	7	15	37	42	132	355
	Wicklow	9	15	18	26	55	17	37	61	62	399	699
	CHO6 Total	28	39	45	62	125	33	70	138	120	615	1,275
CHO 7	Dublin South City	26	8	16	4	39	19	18	25	37	34	226
	Dublin South West	9	10	6	13	89	16	13	44	53	668	921
	Dublin West	14	35	48	54	84	38	57	180	123	184	817
	Kildare West Wicklow	4	6	17	10	32	36	34	61	78	689	967
	CHO7 Total	53	59	87	81	244	109	122	310	291	1,575	2,931
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	67	73	82	69	232	138	200	211	162	1,488	2,722
	Longford Westmeath	33	22	52	16	1	45	42	75	19	4	309
	Louth	26	35	36	20	56	34	46	92	65	370	780
	Meath	16	12	24	19	1	82	130	164	117	58	623
	CHO8 Total	142	142	194	124	290	299	418	542	363	1,920	4,434
CHO 9	Dublin North	54	31	61	54	241	87	55	78	86	728	1,475
	Dublin Nth Central	11	13	24	27	24	11	3	42	23	104	282
	Dublin North West	43	49	74	39	194	64	22	12	8	394	899
	CHO9 Total	108	93	159	120	459	162	80	132	117	1,226	2,656
National Total		609	565	822	657	1,774	1,043	1,396	2,175	1,790	10,455	21,286

Note: August data not returned for Sligo/Leitrim and Limerick.

Appendix 3: Physiotherapy - Number of Patients waiting for Assessment August 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	69	6	0	0	0	46	21	18	31	354	545
	Donegal	33	18	15	6	0	32	28	25	14	2	173
	Sligo Leitrim	111	27	21	16	7	26	28	20	4	4	264
	CHO1 Total	213	51	36	22	7	104	77	63	49	360	982
CHO 2	Galway	40	25	23	22	84	62	33	62	32	175	558
	Mayo	1	2	0	2	4	33	6	15	20	51	134
	Roscommon	9	3	0	0	0	18	5	0	0	0	35
	CHO2 Total	50	30	23	24	88	113	44	77	52	226	727
CHO 3	Clare	26	3	5	0	0	20	10	14	0	1	79
	Limerick	50	15	32	9	2	23	10	22	13	7	183
	North Tipperary East Limerick	36	5	3	0	0	26	5	11	3	3	92
	CHO3 Total	112	23	40	9	2	69	25	47	16	11	354
CHO 4	Kerry	103	54	35	38	42	134	97	43	53	117	716
	North Cork	14	9	14	0	0	19	10	7	0	0	73
	North Lee	50	28	20	0	0	44	38	29	35	37	281
	South Lee	32	17	1	0	0	9	2	4	0	0	65
	West Cork	19	13	0	0	0	27	12	0	0	0	71
	CHO4 Total	218	121	70	38	42	233	159	83	88	154	1,206
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	54	9	11	0	0	56	22	24	5	0	181
	South Tipperary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Waterford	19	3	1	0	3	33	20	20	21	46	166
	Wexford	16	10	9	2	0	36	24	16	4	3	120
	CHO5 Total	89	22	21	2	3	125	66	60	30	49	467
CHO 6	Dublin South East	40	8	3	0	0	6	2	4	0	8	71
	Dun Laoghaire	49	19	7	3	0	10	12	12	3	0	115
	Wicklow	34	7	13	10	27	18	31	33	19	25	217
	CHO6 Total	123	34	23	13	27	34	45	49	22	33	403
CHO 7	Dublin South City	55	17	28	38	3	16	39	32	38	95	361
	Dublin South West	37	28	60	18	41	13	23	52	42	498	812
	Dublin West	59	28	27	21	64	44	77	76	86	292	774
	Kildare West Wicklow	78	29	38	35	57	50	36	31	21	56	431
	CHO7 Total	229	102	153	112	165	123	175	191	187	941	2,378
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	43	37	13	6	15	71	80	44	27	155	491
	Longford Westmeath	50	82	29	0	0	51	60	37	1	0	310
	Louth	25	18	42	32	62	50	69	54	37	123	512
	Meath	51	14	45	37	4	45	55	70	41	26	388
	CHO8 Total	169	151	129	75	81	217	264	205	106	304	1,701
CHO 9	Dublin North	53	58	90	57	245	7	33	38	43	87	711
	Dublin Nth Central	49	16	20	21	7	17	11	7	5	0	153
	Dublin North West	94	14	10	0	0	20	13	23	3	0	177

	CHO9 Total	196	88	120	78	252	44	57	68	51	87	1,041
National Total		1,399	622	615	373	667	1,062	912	843	601	2,165	9,259

Note: August data not returned for South Tipperary.

Appendix 4: Assessment of Need -Applications overdue for Completion

CHO	Total Overdue ¹	Overdue/ Exceptional Circumstances ²	Overdue/ No Exceptional Circumstances
AREA 1	133	0	133
AREA 2	100	4	96
AREA 3	589	7	582
AREA 4	943	5	938
AREA 5	555	8	547
AREA 6	236	7	229
AREA 7	942	1	941
AREA 8	721	49	672
AREA 9	1314	55	1259
Total	5533	136	5397

¹All assessment reports that were not completed within 6 months of application or within 3 months of Start Stage 2 and before the end of the quarter are included in this report.

²The number of Assessment Reports for which an extended time-frame was negotiated with the parent on the grounds of there being exceptional circumstances as provided for in paragraph 10 of the regulations. Consent to extension is only valid if agreed extension date has not already passed.

Appendix 5: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Waiting Lists

CAMHS Waiting List			Reporting Period August 2020															
Total no. to be seen or waiting to be seen by CAMHS			≤ 3 months		>3-≤ 6 months		>6-≤ 9 months		>9- ≤12 months		>12- ≤15 months		>15- ≤18 months		> 18 months		Aug	
	Total waiting	SPLY	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
National Total	2,157	2,076	825	38.2%	403	18.7%	445	20.6%	257	11.9%	123	5.7%	53	2.5%	51	2.4%	2,157	
CHO 1	354	16.4%	265	10.5%	47	13.3%	75	21.2%	51	14.4%	39	11.0%	22	6.2%	15	4.2%	354	
CHO 2	39	1.8%	11	26	66.7%	11	28.2%	2	5.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	39
CHO 3	184	8.5%	124	40	21.7%	41	22.3%	46	25.0%	35	19.0%	13	7.1%	2	1.1%	7	3.8%	184
CHO 4	321	14.9%	564	10	32.4%	60	18.7%	60	18.7%	36	11.2%	25	7.8%	17	5.3%	19	5.9%	321
CHO 5	131	6.1%	138	71	54.2%	26	19.8%	22	16.8%	12	9.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	131
CHO 6	406	18.8%	355	18	44.3%	54	13.3%	83	20.4%	63	15.5%	26	6.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	406
CHO 7	132	6.1%	126	81	61.4%	19	14.4%	20	15.2%	7	5.3%	3	2.3%	2	1.5%	0	0.0%	132
CHO 8	393	18.2%	301	16	41.2%	81	20.6%	86	21.9%	30	7.6%	14	3.6%	10	2.5%	10	2.5%	393
CHO 9	197	9.1%	192	56	28.4%	64	32.5%	51	25.9%	23	11.7%	3	1.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	197