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6th May 2021

Deputy David Cullinane,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 19172/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of children under 18 years of age waiting for an audiology appointment in primary care less than 4, 4 to 12 and more than 12 months by LHO area in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter

- David Cullinane

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 19172/21), which you submitted to the Minister for Health 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.

Please find attached Appendix 1 which contains, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists in audiology as of March 2021, which is the latest available data at this time. Where an individual LHO was unable to return the waiting list data for the month in question that is noted at the bottom of the waiting list table.

The HSE is committed to delivering efficient high quality audiology services to all eligible service users. In 2020, there were 36,701 patients seen by HSE community audiology services.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Maeve Raeside
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations