



6th May 2021

Deputy Martin Browne,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 19189/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the current wait times for children on the waiting list for initial speech and language therapy assessments by CHO; the number of children on the waiting list for occupational therapy appointments by CHO; and the average current wait times for same by-CHO

- Martin Browne

Dear Deputy Browne,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 19189/21), 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 note that we do not report the average current wait times for therapy services. However, we do report the most recent wait times. Please see attached appendices which contain the following in tabular form;

Appendix 1 - Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 month old patients awaiting Initial Assessment - March 2021

Appendix 2 - Occupational Therapy – Number of 0-17 years & 11 month old patients awaiting first time assessment - March 2021

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 therapy services to all eligible service users. In 2020, there were 165,657 patients seen by HSE community speech and language therapy services. There were also 310,153 patients seen by HSE community occupational therapy services in 2020.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Maeve Raeside

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General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations