



Mr. Aodhán Ó'Riordáin, TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

14<sup>th</sup> July 2021

**PQ 19551/21 – To ask the Minister for Health the average age of children on the waiting lists to commence accessing services in each of speech and language therapy, primary care occupational therapy, school age disability teams and psychological therapy in CH09; and if he will make a statement on the matter. – Aodhán Ó'Riordáin**

Dear Deputy Ó'Riordáin,

In the first instance I would like to apologise for the delay in responding due to the cyber-attack.

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

In Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC), figures are recorded via Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). Unfortunately, it would not be possible to extract average ages of children accessing services right across the board, however, we have given the figures as recorded through the KPI process indicating the age bands reported monthly and are inclusive of School Aged Team figures. Whilst the figures given are totals for CHO DNCC, it should be noted that waiting lists can vary across the three local health areas.

Figures for Speech and Language are collated in the Paediatric category 0 – 17 years 10 months of age. There is no further age band breakdown for Speech and Language Therapy for children under the waiting list category.

The figures below relate to the waiting times for initial assessment for Speech and Language Therapy.

Speech and Language Therapy	Numbers Waiting 0-4 mths	Numbers Waiting 4 mths & 1 day - 8 mths	Numbers Waiting 8 mths & 1 day - 12 mths	Numbers Waiting 12 mths & 1 day - 18 mths	Numbers Waiting 18 mths & 1 day - 24 mths	Numbers Waiting Over 24 months
Waiting Initial Assessment	568	567	289	712	226	130

The overall figures for the number of children waiting for initial assessment under the two age bands 0-4 years and 5-17 years for Occupational Therapy and Psychology services are detailed below:

Occupational Therapy Waiting Initial Assessment		Psychology Waiting Initial Assessment	
0-4yrs	5-17yrs	0-4yrs	5-17yrs
978	1623	192	1656

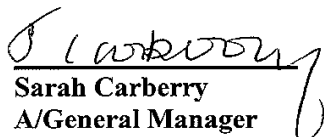
Average age of children on the waiting list for Psychology Services in each local area;

- Dublin North West - 9 years
- Dublin North Central – 8 years
- Dublin North - 9.7 years

Average age of children commencing access with the Psychology service across CHO DNCC is 8.9 years of age.

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

**Yours sincerely,**

  
**Sarah Carberry**  
**A/General Manager**