



6th May 2021

Deputy Róisín Shortall,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 20307/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on a waiting list for speech and language therapy by CHO and age category; and the breakdown by the length of time they have been waiting in tabular form.

- Róisín Shortall

Dear Deputy Shortall,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 20307/21), 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 Speech and Language Therapy as of March 2021, which is the latest available data at this time.

The HSE is committed to delivering efficient high quality Speech and Language Therapy services to all eligible service users. In 2020, there were 165,657 patients seen by HSE Community Speech and Language Therapy services.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Maeve Raeside
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations