



17<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Deputy Matt Carthy,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 21685/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of staff based in speech and language therapy that are currently redeployed to other duties by each CHO; the corresponding figures for each month from March 2020 to March 2021, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**- Matt Carthy**

Dear Deputy Carthy,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 21685/21), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Building upon the experience from earlier waves of the pandemic, Community Services developed a prioritisation framework to support local decisions made on service prioritisation. This approach ensures that services are focused on identifying and supporting patients who have the greatest need and enabling staff to be deployed where necessary to support these patients. Where services are curtailed or reduced, this is in line with clinical approval, a shared national position and with an appropriate risk assessment and communication with providers, service users and families.

Table 1 represents the total number of speech and language therapists who were reassigned to support COVID-19 testing and tracing between the periods of April 2020 and April 2021.

**Table 1**

Speech & Language Therapists									
	CHO 1	CHO 2	CHO 3	CHO 4	CHO 5	CHO 6	CHO 7	CHO 8	CHO 9
Apr-20	0	55	21	50	10	29	0	0	12
Sep-20	30	70	1	21	3	4	53	38	5
Nov-20	12	28	0	13	0	1	34	12	0
Apr-21	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Maeve Raeside". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Maeve" and last name "Raeside" clearly distinguishable.

**Maeve Raeside**

General Manager Primary Care  
National Community Operations