



21st December 2021

Deputy Michael Moynihan,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 61764/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on the speech and language therapy assessment waiting list by local health area as of 1 December 2021 or the latest date available; the number waiting less than 4, 4 to 12 and more than 12 months; and the number waiting aged 0 to 17 and over 18 years of age.

PQ 61765/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on the speech and language therapy initial treatment waiting list by local health area as of 1 December 2021 or the latest date available; the number waiting less than 4, 4 to 12 and more than 12 months; and the number waiting aged 0 to 17 and over 18 years of age.

PQ 61766/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on the speech and language therapy further treatment waiting list by local health area as of 1 December 2021 or the latest date available; the number waiting less than 4, 4 to 12 and more than 12 months; and the number waiting aged 0 to 17 and over 18 years of age.

- Michael Moynihan

Dear Deputy Moynihan,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions 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.

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.

Please find the attached appendices which contain, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists in Speech and Language Therapy as of October 2021. Please note 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.

Appendix 1 - Speech and Language Therapy - Total Number of patients awaiting Initial Assessment - October 2021

Appendix 2 - Speech and Language Therapy - Total Number of patients awaiting Initial Therapy - October 2021

Appendix 3 - Speech and Language Therapy - Total Number of patients awaiting Further Therapy - October 2021

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Seán McArt', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Seán McArt

General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations