



22nd February 2021

Deputy Sean Sherlock,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 6417/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the waiting times for all children for speech and language therapy by CHO in tabular form; and the length of time each age group is waiting

-Sean Sherlock

Dear Deputy Sherlock

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

As a result of the national effort across all Community Healthcare Organisations throughout the country, some aspects of normal monthly reporting have been delayed. Preliminary data currently available reflects the period to the end of December 2020 which is the latest data available at this time. Please see below appendices which contain the following in tabular form;

Appendix 1 – Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Initial Assessment - December 2020

Appendix 2 – Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Initial Therapy – December 2020

Appendix 3 – Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Further Therapy - December 2020

Please note the list of LHO areas at the bottom of the Appendix which did not return data, as some areas were not in a position to return data due to staff being redeployed to Covid-19 related duties. Please also note that because of this the overall accuracy of the waiting list data is impacted.

The HSE is working to ensure timely access to children and adults requiring therapy services, and to reduce long waiting times for these important services.

As this is an evolving and unprecedented situation, the HSE will keep matters in review and will advise clients and/or family members accordingly.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TJ Dunford', written on a light-colored background.

TJ Dunford,
Interim Head of Operations Primary Care/A.N.D.
Community Operations

APPENDIX 1

Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Initial Assessment - December 2020

LHO	0 to 4 Mths	4 months & 1 day - 8 months	8 months & 1 day - 12 months	12 months & 1 day - 18 months	18 months & 1 day to 24 months	>24 months	Total
Cavan Monaghan	275	139	214	340	84	5	1,057
Donegal	271	183	243	54	0	0	751
Sligo Leitrim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHO1	546	322	457	394	84	5	1,808
Galway	558	311	286	104	20	10	1,289
Mayo	21	26	25	29	0	0	101
Roscommon	105	4	0	0	0	0	109
CHO2	684	341	311	133	20	10	1,499
Clare	217	69	19	7	11	3	326
Limerick	431	135	129	15	23	25	758
North Tipperary East Limerick	247	132	119	31	13	0	542
CHO3	895	336	267	53	47	28	1,626
Kerry	205	4	0	0	0	0	209
North Cork	215	36	0	0	0	0	251
North Lee	368	86	6	0	0	0	460
South Lee	352	40	2	0	9	15	418
West Cork	97	1	0	0	0	0	98
CHO4	1,237	167	8	0	9	15	1,436
Carlow Kilkenny	290	92	99	0	0	0	481
South Tipperary	198	23	3	0	0	0	224
Waterford	101	65	174	46	0	0	386
Wexford	266	79	255	283	0	0	883
CHO5	855	259	531	329	0	0	1,974
Dublin South East	122	22	10	8	6	0	168
Dun Laoghaire	99	13	17	28	26	18	201
Wicklow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHO6	221	35	27	36	32	18	369
Dublin South City	147	83	135	76	26	34	501
Dublin South West	218	93	149	188	87	296	1,031
Dublin West	134	69	192	327	162	54	938
Kildare West Wicklow	343	192	283	44	0	0	862
CHO7	842	437	759	635	275	384	3,332
Laos Offaly	335	176	451	53	0	0	1,015
Longford Westmeath	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Louth	278	30	0	0	0	0	308
Meath	131	22	60	40	0	0	253
CHO8	744	228	511	93	0	0	1,576
Dublin North	332	213	421	207	100	0	1,273
Dublin North Central	136	54	118	246	51	0	605
Dublin North West	175	93	219	332	93	56	968
CHO9	643	360	758	785	244	56	2,846
Total	6,667	2,485	3,629	2,458	711	516	16,466

APPENDIX 2

Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Initial Therapy - December 2020

LHO	0 to 4 Mths	4 months & 1 day - 8 months	8 months & 1 day - 12 months	12 months & 1 day - 18 months	18 months & 1 day to 24 months	>24 months	Total
Cavan Monaghan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Donegal	43	14	25	0	0	0	82
Sligo Leitrim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHO1	43	14	25	0	0	0	82
Galway	135	63	126	145	75	240	784
Mayo	74	22	38	0	0	0	134
Roscommon	84	51	98	30	0	0	263
CHO2	293	136	262	175	75	240	1,181
Clare	59	23	57	22	27	1	189
Limerick	106	27	54	36	10	25	258
North Tipperary East Limerick	58	27	8	3	0	0	96
CHO3	223	77	119	61	37	26	543
Kerry	93	60	29	0	0	0	182
North Cork	25	97	80	96	1	0	299
North Lee	190	145	197	346	82	53	1,013
South Lee	127	101	146	138	95	92	699
West Cork	46	14	25	14	3	0	102
CHO4	481	417	477	594	181	145	2,295
Carlow Kilkenny	69	7	62	130	181	202	651
South Tipperary	96	43	40	45	5	0	229
Waterford	65	6	44	116	159	125	515
Wexford	82	61	81	168	95	45	532
CHO5	312	117	227	459	440	372	1,927
Dublin South East	24	0	0	0	0	0	24
Dun Laoghaire	93	6	0	0	0	0	99
Wicklow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHO6	117	6	0	0	0	0	123
Dublin South City	24	52	88	161	83	120	528
Dublin South West	39	41	105	139	78	27	429
Dublin West	42	12	99	249	131	101	634
Kildare West Wicklow	45	36	20	5	0	0	106
CHO7	150	141	312	554	292	248	1,697
Laos Offaly	18	24	38	103	39	5	227
Longford Westmeath	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Louth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meath	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHO8	18	24	38	103	39	5	227
Dublin North	257	29	161	428	30	0	905
Dublin North Central	39	26	46	56	17	0	184
Dublin North West	94	29	117	148	22	0	410
CHO9	390	84	324	632	69	0	1,499
Total	2,027	1,016	1,784	2,578	1,133	1,036	9,574

APPENDIX 3

Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Further Therapy - December 2020

LHO	0 to 4 Mths	4 months & 1 day - 8 months	8 months & 1 day - 12 months	12 months & 1 day - 18 months	18 months & 1 day to 24 months	>24 months	Total
Cavan Monaghan	157	203	178	10	0	0	548
Donegal	346	170	442	60	16	0	1,034
Sligo Leitrim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHO1	503	373	620	70	16	0	1,582
Galway	283	532	669	283	31	160	1,958
Mayo	113	56	88	1	0	0	258
Roscommon	298	195	145	7	1	0	646
CHO2	694	783	902	291	32	160	2,862
Clare	214	113	107	181	102	51	768
Limerick	346	258	249	157	63	19	1,092
North Tipperary East Limerick	303	184	83	14	0	0	584
CHO3	863	555	439	352	165	70	2,444
Kerry	360	292	178	28	0	0	858
North Cork	104	47	85	128	16	0	380
North Lee	216	130	245	326	93	79	1,089
South Lee	296	104	185	120	62	74	841
West Cork	67	58	73	42	3	0	243
CHO4	1,043	631	766	644	174	153	3,411
Carlow Kilkenny	72	53	202	63	37	6	433
South Tipperary	0	185	276	0	0	0	461
Waterford	7	4	19	16	46	2	94
Wexford	113	93	317	360	107	47	1,037
CHO5	192	335	814	439	190	55	2,025
Dublin South East	19	7	12	2	1	8	49
Dun Laoghaire	20	1	0	0	0	0	21
Wicklow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHO6	39	8	12	2	1	8	70
Dublin South City	101	84	135	212	80	116	728
Dublin South West	55	79	176	332	161	56	859
Dublin West	16	21	146	330	212	67	792
Kildare West Wicklow	139	256	346	85	0	0	826
CHO7	311	440	803	959	453	239	3,205
Laos Offaly	37	48	123	33	20	33	294
Longford Westmeath	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Louth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meath	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHO8	37	48	123	33	20	33	294
Dublin North	377	19	336	843	71	0	1,646
Dublin North Central	74	54	123	118	81	0	450
Dublin North West	122	24	85	219	107	6	563
CHO9	573	97	544	1,180	259	6	2,659
Total	4,255	3,270	5,023	3,970	1,310	724	18,552

