



23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

Deputy Pauline Tully,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 8578/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons awaiting a speech and language appointment in each CHO area; the number who have been waiting less than 3, 3 to 6, 6 to 12 and more than 12 months, respectively in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**PQ 8580/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons awaiting a speech and language appointment in each CHO area; the number who have been waiting less than 3, 3 to 6, 6 to 12 and more than 12 months, respectively in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

-Pauline Tully

Dear Deputy Tully,

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 patients awaiting Initial Assessment – December 2020

Appendix 2 – Speech and Language Therapy - Number of patients awaiting Initial Therapy – December 2020

Appendix 3 – Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 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.

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

**APPENDIX 1**

**Speech and Language Therapy - Total Number of 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	374	222	256	402	130	5	1,389
Donegal	293	183	243	70	3	72	864
Sligo Leitrim	233	72	44	9	0	0	358
<b>CHO1</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>2,611</b>
Galway	667	335	306	123	20	10	1,461
Mayo	197	28	26	31	0	0	282
Roscommon	125	10	0	0	0	0	135
<b>CHO2</b>	<b>989</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1,878</b>
Clare	245	70	19	7	11	3	355
Limerick	473	157	140	24	23	25	842
North Tipperary East Limerick	259	132	121	31	13	0	556
<b>CHO3</b>	<b>977</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1,753</b>
Kerry	249	4	0	0	0	0	253
North Cork	242	36	1	0	0	0	279
North Lee	393	90	6	0	0	0	489
South Lee	382	49	7	0	9	15	462
West Cork	106	1	0	0	0	0	107
<b>CHO4</b>	<b>1,372</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1,590</b>
Carlow Kilkenny	373	151	169	26	1	0	720
South Tipperary	241	27	3	0	0	0	271
Waterford	163	79	179	51	0	0	472
Wexford	312	97	267	287	0	0	963
<b>CHO5</b>	<b>1,089</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,426</b>
Dublin South East	185	22	10	8	6	0	231
Dun Laoghaire	99	13	17	28	26	18	201
Wicklow	386	144	101	104	39	44	818
<b>CHO6</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>1,250</b>
Dublin South City	194	117	167	108	26	34	646
Dublin South West	255	141	196	229	89	296	1,206
Dublin West	205	113	233	342	165	61	1,119
Kildare West Wicklow	382	192	283	44	0	0	901
<b>CHO7</b>	<b>1,036</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>879</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>3,872</b>
Laois Offaly	445	228	479	87	29	0	1,268
Longford Westmeath	272	133	130	157	55	0	747
Louth	302	55	0	0	0	0	357
Meath	776	245	295	280	108	79	1,783
<b>CHO8</b>	<b>1,795</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>904</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>4,155</b>
Dublin North	369	221	423	207	100	0	1,320
Dublin North Central	202	98	172	301	60	0	833
Dublin North West	422	263	326	332	93	56	1,492
<b>CHO9</b>	<b>993</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>3,645</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,821</b>	<b>3,728</b>	<b>4,619</b>	<b>3,288</b>	<b>1,006</b>	<b>718</b>	<b>23,180</b>

**APPENDIX 2**

**Speech and Language Therapy - Total Number of 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	13	3	6	0	0	0	22
Donegal	43	14	25	0	0	0	82
Sligo Leitrim	46	23	32	11	2	0	114
<b>CHO1</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>218</b>
Galway	215	66	126	145	75	240	867
Mayo	76	23	38	0	0	0	137
Roscommon	84	51	98	30	0	0	263
<b>CHO2</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>1,267</b>
Clare	59	23	59	22	27	1	191
Limerick	131	46	78	48	19	25	347
North Tipperary East Limerick	70	34	8	3	0	0	115
<b>CHO3</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>653</b>
Kerry	105	61	29	0	0	0	195
North Cork	31	97	80	97	1	0	306
North Lee	200	147	198	346	82	53	1,026
South Lee	139	104	151	138	95	92	719
West Cork	46	14	25	14	3	0	102
<b>CHO4</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>2,348</b>
Carlow Kilkenny	69	7	62	130	181	202	651
South Tipperary	96	43	40	45	5	0	229
Waterford	89	6	44	116	159	125	539
Wexford	82	62	81	169	96	46	536
<b>CHO5</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>1,955</b>
Dublin South East	36	0	0	0	0	0	36
Dun Laoghaire	93	6	0	0	0	0	99
Wicklow	285	145	93	98	55	0	676
<b>CHO6</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>811</b>
Dublin South City	24	52	88	161	83	120	528
Dublin South West	40	42	105	139	78	27	431
Dublin West	42	12	99	249	131	101	634
Kildare West Wicklow	45	36	20	5	0	0	106
<b>CHO7</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>1,699</b>
Laois Offaly	18	24	38	103	39	5	227
Longford Westmeath	63	30	28	33	18	0	172
Louth	51	6	0	0	0	0	57
Meath	35	2	0	0	0	0	37
<b>CHO8</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>493</b>
Dublin North	270	32	168	428	30	0	928
Dublin North Central	58	32	48	56	17	0	211
Dublin North West	269	187	224	148	22	0	850
<b>CHO9</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,989</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,923</b>	<b>1,430</b>	<b>2,091</b>	<b>2,734</b>	<b>1,218</b>	<b>1,037</b>	<b>11,433</b>

**APPENDIX 3**

**Speech and Language Therapy - Total Number of 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	231	217	182	10	0	0	640
Donegal	346	170	442	60	16	0	1,034
Sligo Leitrim	129	79	137	60	13	6	424
<b>CHO1</b>	<b>706</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2,098</b>
Galway	530	672	710	291	36	160	2,399
Mayo	113	59	88	1	0	0	261
Roscommon	313	313	145	7	1	0	779
<b>CHO2</b>	<b>956</b>	<b>1,044</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>3,439</b>
Clare	214	113	151	181	102	51	812
Limerick	383	268	249	157	63	19	1,139
North Tipperary East Limerick	303	185	83	14	0	0	585
<b>CHO3</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>2,536</b>
Kerry	379	302	179	28	0	0	888
North Cork	107	60	89	133	16	0	405
North Lee	224	141	252	336	105	85	1,143
South Lee	336	136	211	134	63	74	954
West Cork	67	58	73	42	3	0	243
<b>CHO4</b>	<b>1,113</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>804</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>3,633</b>
Carlow Kilkenny	72	108	202	63	58	6	509
South Tipperary	0	188	280	0	0	0	468
Waterford	7	4	19	16	46	2	94
Wexford	113	93	317	360	108	48	1,039
<b>CHO5</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>2,110</b>
Dublin South East	19	7	12	2	1	8	49
Dun Laoghaire	20	1	0	0	0	0	21
Wicklow	222	184	98	72	58	0	634
<b>CHO6</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>704</b>
Dublin South City	108	101	136	212	80	116	753
Dublin South West	57	81	182	335	162	58	875
Dublin West	85	50	151	347	225	123	981
Kildare West Wicklow	139	256	346	85	0	0	826
<b>CHO7</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>979</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>3,435</b>
Laois Offaly	56	51	124	33	20	33	317
Longford Westmeath	250	170	327	134	80	0	961
Louth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meath	0	0	36	0	0	0	36
<b>CHO8</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1,314</b>
Dublin North	436	33	358	843	71	0	1,741
Dublin North Central	151	85	164	134	91	0	625
Dublin North West	275	165	200	219	107	6	972
<b>CHO9</b>	<b>862</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>1,196</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3,338</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,685</b>	<b>4,350</b>	<b>5,943</b>	<b>4,309</b>	<b>1,525</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>22,607</b>