



16th March 2021

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

PQ 11953/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of staff based in speech and language therapy that are currently redeployed to other duties per each CHO; the corresponding figures for each month from March 2020 to January 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, which you submitted to the Minister for response.

The redeployment of staff has mainly impacted on Primary Care and in particular therapy / clinical staff and there has been a corresponding loss of productivity in core services, this has led to an increase in the number of patients on a waiting list for therapy services.

The table below represents the total number of speech and language therapists who were reassigned to support Covid-19 services between the periods of April and November 2020. It is intended that a further census will be carried out at the end of March 2021.

Period	Number of Speech & Language Therapists
April 2020	177
September 2020	224
November 2020	99

As the pace of the third wave diminishes we will be developing plans to address service continuity including the return of deployed staff including Speech and Language Therapists back to core front line duties.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maurice Farnan." The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Maurice Farnan
A/A.N.D. Community Operations