



30<sup>th</sup> March 2021

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

**PQ 14144/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the current waiting times for children for speech and language therapy by CHO in tabular form; and the length of time each age group is waiting.**

**-Sean Sherlock**

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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 February 2021 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 - January 2021

Appendix 2 – Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Initial Therapy – January 2021

Appendix 3 – Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Further Therapy - January 2021

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 over a light grey rectangular background.

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

<b>Appendix 1 - Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years &amp; 11 months old patients awaiting Initial Assessment - February 2021</b>							
<b>CHO Area</b>	<b>0 to 4 Mths</b>	<b>4 months &amp; 1 day - 8 months</b>	<b>8 months &amp; 1 day - 12 months</b>	<b>12 months &amp; 1 day - 18 months</b>	<b>18 months &amp; 1 day to 24 months</b>	<b>&gt;24 months</b>	<b>Total</b>
CHO1	492	401	351	642	80	19	1,985
CHO2	670	346	219	80	27	7	1,349
CHO3	753	481	190	98	47	67	1,636
CHO4	1,106	206	15	0	9	15	1,351
CHO5	705	432	251	527	1	1	1,917
CHO6	132	11	14	22	33	26	238
CHO7	718	630	495	751	214	570	3,378
CHO8	435	282	331	425	0	0	1,473
CHO9	679	504	310	795	282	125	2,695
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,690</b>	<b>3,293</b>	<b>2,176</b>	<b>3,340</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>16,022</b>

<b>Appendix 2 - Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years &amp; 11 months old patients awaiting Initial Therapy - February 2021</b>							
<b>CHO Area</b>	<b>0 to 4 Mths</b>	<b>4 months &amp; 1 day - 8 months</b>	<b>8 months &amp; 1 day - 12 months</b>	<b>12 months &amp; 1 day - 18 months</b>	<b>18 months &amp; 1 day to 24 months</b>	<b>&gt;24 months</b>	<b>Total</b>
CHO1	65	11	7	1	0	1	85
CHO2	352	139	200	245	63	240	1,239
CHO3	202	98	49	78	27	46	500
CHO4	428	438	403	603	215	156	2,243
CHO5	303	250	98	369	406	504	1,930
CHO6	91	14	0	0	0	0	105
CHO7	142	149	101	612	451	370	1,825
CHO8	9	18	22	132	50	4	235
CHO9	437	279	61	582	197	4	1,560
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,029</b>	<b>1,396</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>2,622</b>	<b>1,409</b>	<b>1,325</b>	<b>9,722</b>

**Appendix 3 - Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Further Therapy - February 2021**

<b>CHO Area</b>	<b>0 to 4 Mths</b>	<b>4 months &amp; 1 day - 8 months</b>	<b>8 months &amp; 1 day - 12 months</b>	<b>12 months &amp; 1 day - 18 months</b>	<b>18 months &amp; 1 day to 24 months</b>	<b>&gt;24 months</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>CHO1</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1,360</b>
<b>CHO2</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2,285</b>
<b>CHO3</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1,608</b>
<b>CHO4</b>	<b>1,020</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>3,525</b>
<b>CHO5</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>2,032</b>
<b>CHO6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>CHO7</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>1,107</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>3,288</b>
<b>CHO8</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>363</b>
<b>CHO9</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>1,181</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2,512</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,724</b>	<b>3,128</b>	<b>3,214</b>	<b>4,469</b>	<b>1,689</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>16,975</b>