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30<sup>th</sup> March 2021

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

**PQ 14145/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the current waiting times for children for audiology 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.

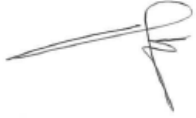
As a result of the national effort across all Community Healthcare Organisations throughout the country, some aspects of normal monthly reporting have been delayed. Please find attached Appendix 1 which contains, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists in Audiology for patients under aged 18 as of February 2021, which is the latest available data at this time.

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,



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

## Appendix 1 - Audiology - Number of Patients waiting for treatment February 2021

CHO Area	0 - 4 Yrs 11 Months					5 - 17 Yrs 11 Months					TOTAL
	0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks - ≤ 26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52	> 52 weeks	0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks - ≤ 26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52	> 52 weeks	
<b>CHO1 Total</b>	55	55	19	23	74	59	39	27	33	261	645
<b>CHO2 Total</b>	126	141	87	49	124	75	96	58	91	135	982
<b>CHO3 Total</b>	32	97	34	46	98	40	84	49	84	120	684
<b>CHO4 Total</b>	178	196	171	187	556	181	168	158	135	188	2,118
<b>CHO5 Total</b>	112	139	58	58	306	85	102	52	64	664	1,640
<b>CHO6 Total</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CHO7 Total</b>	118	78	54	46	63	91	84	31	21	266	852
<b>CHO8 Total</b>	161	129	98	97	341	147	137	154	174	459	1,897
<b>CHO9 Total</b>	118	130	26	11	37	62	125	34	34	91	668
<b>National Total</b>	900	965	547	517	1,599	740	835	563	636	2,184	9,486