



30<sup>th</sup> March 2021

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

**PQ 14146/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the current waiting times for children for occupational 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 Occupational Therapy Assessment for patients under aged 18 as of February 2021, which is the latest available data at this time.


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,



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

**Appendix 1 - Occupational Therapy - Number of Patients Awaiting First Time Assessment 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 weeks	> 52 weeks	0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks - ≤ 26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52 weeks	> 52 weeks	
CHO1 Total	21	42	22	22	99	70	48	90	66	727	1,207
CHO2 Total	51	34	29	20	115	135	127	44	65	941	1,561
CHO3 Total	13	12	6	3	1	82	100	28	40	55	340
CHO4 Total	118	130	67	46	86	278	239	114	223	1,596	2,897
CHO5 Total	99	98	50	35	380	185	239	97	160	1,688	3,031
CHO6 Total	40	55	25	24	165	88	87	33	69	948	1,534
CHO7 Total	61	73	46	32	285	161	184	129	106	1,494	2,571
CHO8 Total	172	158	92	85	364	351	367	173	249	1,749	3,760
CHO9 Total	87	118	68	36	306	91	106	66	88	886	1,852
National Total	662	720	405	303	1,801	1,441	1,497	774	1,066	10,084	18,753

Note: February data not returned for Sligo/Leitrim (CHO 1), Carlow/Kilkenny (CHO5) and Dublin North West (CHO9).