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30<sup>th</sup> March 2021

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

**PQ 14148/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the waiting times for children for ophthalmology assessment and intervention 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.

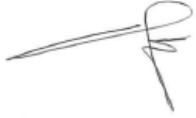
As a result of the national effort across all Community Healthcare Organisations throughout the country, some aspects of normal monthly reporting have been delayed. Please find attached Appendix 1 which contains, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists in Ophthalmology for patients under aged 18 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 - Ophthalmology - 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	
CHO1 Total	125	161	107	44	130	152	291	59	85	359	1,513
CHO2 Total	333	625	259	268	2,092	194	143	86	113	729	4,842
CHO3 Total	36	64	37	15	76	67	165	58	51	482	1,051
CHO4 Total	153	168	90	55	244	146	232	44	70	837	2,039
CHO5 Total	213	153	37	64	538	122	213	16	18	31	1,405
CHO6 Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHO7 Total	98	178	58	60	379	50	95	24	27	175	1,144
CHO8 Total	211	80	66	124	341	164	43	92	90	711	1,922
CHO9 Total	57	0	0	0	0	38	0	0	0	0	95
National Total	1,226	1,429	654	630	3,800	933	1,182	379	454	3,324	14,011