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30th March 2021

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

PQ 14149/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the waiting times for children for dietetics assessment and intervention by CHO in tabular form; and the length of time each age group is waiting.

-Sean Sherlock

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.

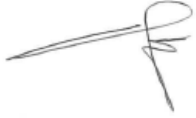
As a result of the national effort across all Community Healthcare Organisations throughout the country, some aspects of normal monthly reporting have been delayed. Please find attached Appendix 1 which contains, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists in Dietetics for patients under aged 18 as 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,



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

Appendix 1 - Dietetics - 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	41	9	2	1	1	51	20	4	2	6	137
CHO2 Total	83	55	20	10	84	38	16	5	16	130	457
CHO3 Total	35	48	44	8	129	38	36	76	12	366	792
CHO4 Total	96	37	2	2	2	76	40	5	2	4	266
CHO5 Total	81	72	34	64	254	53	56	47	52	461	1,174
CHO6 Total	17	3	1	0	0	8	5	0	0	0	34
CHO7 Total	68	119	39	42	215	20	36	23	25	133	720
CHO8 Total	48	46	12	15	74	45	42	19	13	126	440
CHO9 Total	67	22	12	2	13	21	56	8	3	8	212
National Total	536	411	166	144	772	350	307	187	125	1,234	4,232