



30th March 2021

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

PQ 14150/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the waiting times for children for psychology 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 Psychology for patients under aged 18 as of February 2021, which is the latest available data at this time.

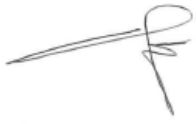
Please note the list of LHO areas at the bottom of the Appendix which did not return data, as some areas were not in a position to return data due to staff being redeployed to Covid-19 related duties. Please also note that because of this the overall accuracy of the waiting list data is impacted.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TJ Dunford', written on a light-colored background.

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

Appendix 1 - Psychology - 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	4	15	2	3	11	124	163	81	70	286	759
CHO2 Total	22	24	7	7	61	56	79	56	55	534	901
CHO3 Total	17	17	2	7	11	49	42	26	35	234	440
CHO4 Total	49	28	8	15	21	129	129	79	109	847	1,414
CHO5 Total	21	10	5	10	22	196	145	74	78	368	929
CHO6 Total	34	28	6	4	3	71	80	35	29	23	313
CHO7 Total	26	37	16	23	193	109	131	67	85	1,098	1,785
CHO8 Total	12	13	10	0	3	163	171	55	27	34	488
CHO9 Total	19	18	7	5	140	111	100	94	65	1,216	1,775
National Total	204	190	63	74	465	1,008	1,040	567	553	4,640	8,804

Note: February data not returned for North Tipperary / East Limerick (CHO3)