



1st April 2021

Sean Sherlock TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 14153/21

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of in-person assessments for children requiring speech and language therapy undertaken since January 2021, by CHO area in tabular form. -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 (Reference 14153/21), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The number of Speech & Language Therapy Patients seen (face to face) for initial assessment by age band (children) was,

CHO	January	February	Totals
CHO 1	177	96	273
CHO 2	97	148	245
CHO 3	11	81	92
CHO 4	61	77	138
CHO 5	80	57	137
CHO 6	31	35	66
CHO 7	36	27	63
CHO 8	269	119	388
CHO 9	156	209	365
Total	918	849	1,767

In addition the number of Speech & Language Therapy Clients for whom an initial assessment occurred in the reporting month by telephone video or audio conferencing in January & February 2021 was,

CHO	January	February	Totals
CHO 1	5	64	69
CHO 2	83	302	385
CHO 3	139	76	215
CHO 4	190	247	437
CHO 5	132	112	244

CHO 6	155	168	323
CHO 7	42	114	156
CHO 8	6	212	218
CHO 9	86	172	258
Total	838	1,467	2,305

To address the current third wave of Covid infections there was a requirement to prioritise the level of services delivered during this period. Building upon the experience from earlier waves of the pandemic, Community Services have developed a prioritisation framework to support local decisions to be made on service prioritisation. This approach will ensure that services will be focused on identifying and supporting patients who have the greatest need and enabling staff to be deployed where necessary to support these patients. Where services are curtailed or reduced, this will be in line with clinical approval, a shared national position and with an appropriate risk assessment and communication with providers, service users and families. It is the intention of Community Services that full services, including speech and language therapy services, would return as soon as is safe and practicable.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



TJ Dunford

Head of Operations; Primary Care.

Community Operations.