



Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Seirbhísí Cúram Príomhúil  
An Cabhán, Muineachán, Sligeach, Liatroim & Dún na nGall

Head of Service, Primary Care  
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19<sup>th</sup> April 2021,

Deputy Marian Harkin,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ 15290/ 21 To ask the Minister for Health the number of children in counties Sligo and Leitrim that are currently awaiting initial assessment, initial treatment or further therapy in speech and language; and if he will make a statement on the matter**

Dear Deputy Harkin,

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the above query. I have linked with the relevant Speech and Language Therapy Services and below is our response to your query.

In Sligo Leitrim there are currently 385 children waiting initial assessment, 84 waiting initial therapy and 444 waiting further therapy with the Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) Service.

Primary Care management have approved a number of waiting list initiatives to reduce these lists. These include the recruitment of an additional Speech and Language Therapist post, additional Saturday clinics in Markievicz House for high priority children on waiting list and prioritisation of staffing cover for the increased number of maternity leave vacancies within the department. It is hoped that a new national Staff Grade SLT panel, which went live in April, will provide staff for a number of vacancies within the department.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

**Dermot Monaghan,**  
Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Seirbhísí Cúram Príomhúil  
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