



Ceann Seirbhíse, Cúram Príomhúil  
Baile Átha Cliath Theas, Cill Dara & Iarthar Chill Mhantáin  
– Cúram Sláinte Pobail  
Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co. Chill Dara, W91 KDC2

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8<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Deputy Emer Higgins  
Dáil Eireann,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ15858/21**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of children who have received assessments for speech and language services and are currently waiting for intervention in CHO7 -Emer Higgins TD**

Dear Deputy Higgins

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your parliamentary question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Since March 2020 Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow Community Healthcare Organisation has been responding to a National Pandemic which provided numerous challenges to staff and services. The scale of the response includes Community Testing, Covid19 Assessment Hubs, Residential unit support, and more recently the Vaccination program. Our involvement in the Pandemic response has resulted in increased waiting list times for community and acute services. These waiting lists are longer that we would like in terms of being responsive to the needs of our service users.

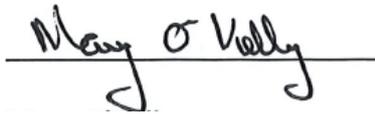
We are happy to say that many of our staff that were redeployed during the year, have reverted to their core duties in the past number of weeks. This will assist with the gradual reopening of services however, there are still some constraints in terms of the volume of service users that can be safely accommodated in our buildings as we are still working in a Covid-19 pandemic situation. Whilst this work is ongoing the use of virtual appointments via Telehealth and Video consultation, where appropriate, will support the services in reducing waiting list times.

The table below shows the number of children, in Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow Community Healthcare area, who have received assessments and are awaiting initial treatment

Kildare West Wicklow	Dublin South City	Dublin West	Dublin South West	Total CHO7
97	478	791	435	1801

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

Yours sincerely,



**Mary O'Kelly**  
**Head of Service, Primary Care**  
**Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow Community Healthcare**