



12th April 2021

Deputy Bríd Smith
Dáil Eireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ16184/21

To ask the Minister for Health the waiting times for access to Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Psychology services in the Dublin CHO7 area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Bríd Smith TD

Dear Deputy Smith

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 than 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 tables below outline the numbers awaiting access to **Primary Care** SLT, OT and Psychology Services in the Dublin region of CHO7, and the associated timelines as at 31st March 2021.

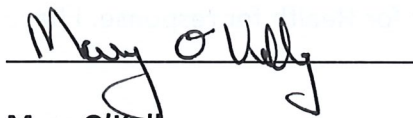
Speech and Language Therapy Services	
Waiting Times	Total CHO7 Dublin area
0-4mths	522
4-8mths	480
8-12mths	426
12 Months +	1523
Total Awaiting Initial Assessment	2951

Occupational Therapy Services	
Waiting Times	Total CHO7 Dublin area
0-4mths	825
4-8mths	642
8-12mths	464
12 Months +	1089
Total Awaiting Initial Assessment	3020

Psychology Services	
Waiting Times	Total CHO7 Dublin area
0-4mths	150
4-8mths	112
8-12mths	108
12 Months +	983
Total Awaiting Treatment	1353

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