



30<sup>th</sup> June 2021

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

**PQ 24745/21- To ask the Minister for Health the waiting times for children for speech and language assessment and first time intervention by CHO; the number awaiting in each specific area within each CHO in tabular form; and the length of time each age group is waiting.**

- Sean Sherlock

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Dear Deputy Sherlock,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 24745/21), which you submitted to the Minister for Health 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.

Please see attached appendices which contain details of the waiting lists for children in Speech and Language Therapy as of March 2021, in tabular form. This was the latest data available prior to the recent cyber-attack on the HSE. Please note where an individual LHO was unable to return the waiting list data for the month in question that is noted at the bottom of the waiting list table.

Appendix 1 - Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 month old patients awaiting Initial Assessment - March 2021

Appendix 2 - Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 month old patients awaiting Initial Therapy - March 2021

The HSE is committed to delivering efficient high quality speech and language therapy services to all eligible service users. In 2020, there were 165,657 patients seen by HSE community Speech and Language Therapy services.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

*Maeve Roeside*

**Maeve Raeside**  
General Manager Primary Care  
National Community Operations