



Office of the Head of Operations Primary Care, Community Operations
Dr. Steevens Hospital, Dublin 8, DO8 W2A8
Tel: 01-6352682 Email: community.primarycare@hse.ie

Oifig Ceann na n-Oibríochtaí, Cúraim Phríomhúil, Oibríochtaí Pobail
Ospidéal Dr. Steevens' Baile Atha Cliath 8, DO8 W2A8
T 01 6352682 R: community.primarycare@hse.ie

30th June 2021

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

PQ 24748/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the waiting times for children for an audiology 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

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 24748/21), 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 find attached Appendix 1 which contains, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists in Audiology as of March 2021. This was the latest data available prior to the recent cyber-attack on the HSE.

The HSE is committed to delivering efficient high quality Audiology services to all eligible service users. In 2020, there were 36,701 Audiology patients seen by HSE community Audiology services.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maeve Raeside".

Maeve Raeside
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations