



1st December 2021

Deputy David Cullinane,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 56227/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of adults and children on speech and language therapy waiting lists by CHO for each quarter since quarter 4 2018, in tabular form; the number of those waiting more than 12, 24 and 52 weeks respectively; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- David Cullinane

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 56227/21) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

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.

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.

Please find the attached appendices which contain, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists in Speech and Language Therapy. This is the reported data at the end of each year from 2018 to 2020 and for the year to date for September 2021. Please note where an individual CHO 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 Patients awaiting Initial Assessment since Q4 2018 to 2021

Appendix 2 – Speech and Language Therapy - Total Number of patients awaiting Initial Assessment - September 2021

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Seán McArt'.

Seán McArt

General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations