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**1st December 2021**

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

**PQ 56232/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of adults and children on psychology 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 56232/21) 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 Psychology services to all eligible service users. In 2020, there were 41,800 patients seen by HSE Primary Care Psychology Services.

Please find the attached appendices which contain, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists in Psychology. This is the reported data at the end of each year from 2018 to 2020 and for the year to date for September 2021. 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 – Psychology - Number of Patients waiting for treatment since Q4 2018 to 2021

Appendix 2 – Psychology - Number of Patients waiting for treatment - September 2021

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

**Seán McArt**
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations