



Oifig an Príomhoifigeach
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Lár Tire,
An Lú, An Mhí

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,
Oifig Cheantair, Bóthar Ardáin,
An Tulach Mhór, Co. Uíbh Fhailí.

Office of the Chief Officer
Community Health Organisation
Midlands Louth Meath

HSE,
Area Office, Arden Road,
Tullamore, Co Offaly

www.hse.ie
@hselive
@MLMCommHealth

t 057 9359787
e CHO8@hse.ie

14th December, 2021

Mr Brian Stanley T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re: Parliamentary Question – 56585/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of children screened or assessed for speech and language therapy at the Spraioi Centre, Portlaoise in 2020 and to date in 2021. -Brian Stanley

Dear Deputy Stanley,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and I outline the position as follows.

I have consulted relevant colleagues and it is not possible to provide a breakdown by building or specific county of children screened or assessed for speech and language. In 2020, 113 children were screened / assessed in Laois/ Offaly and in 2021, 961 children were screened /assessed. These numbers are cumulative for disability and primary care services as again this is the format in which statistics were collated up until the re-configuration of Disability Services in November 2021.

During 2020 the majority of staff were redeployed to the covid response and the majority of buildings were closed for a significant proportion of the year due to covid. When buildings re-opened clients with whom there was an open duty of care were prioritised for appointments. This is an explanation for the increased figure of screened/assessed children in the year 2021.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

Des O'Flynn
Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation