



3rd December 2021

Deputy Mark Ward,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 56834/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of children who are currently waiting for occupational therapy appointments; the average waiting times by CHO area in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Mark Ward

Dear Deputy Ward,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 56834/21) 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 Occupational Therapy services to all eligible service users. In 2020, there were 310,153 Occupational Therapy patients seen by HSE community Occupational Therapy services.

Please note that we do not report the average current wait times for therapy services. However, we do report the most recent wait times. Please find attached Appendix 1 which contains, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists in Occupational Therapy as of October 2021. 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 - Occupational Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old Patients Awaiting First Time Assessment October 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