



7th December 2021

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

PQ 57656/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the current waiting lists for children's access to speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy for each 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 57656/21) 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 the attached appendices which contain, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists for children in Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy 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 - Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Initial Assessment - October 2021

Appendix 2 - Occupational Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old Patients Awaiting First Time Assessment - October 2021

Appendix 3 - Physiotherapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old Patients waiting for 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