



14th December 2021

Deputy Ged Nash,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 58785/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the current waiting time for occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, physical therapy and behavioural support, respectively; the number of professionals employed directly by the HSE for each service in each CNT in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Ged Nash

Dear Deputy Nash,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 58785/21) 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.

In response to your query regarding the current waiting times, please note I am assuming you are referring to waiting times for Community Physiotherapy services in respect of 'physical therapy'. Please find the attached appendices which contains, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists in Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy and Physiotherapy as of October 2021, which is the latest available data at this time. 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 Patients Awaiting First Time Assessment - October 2021

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

Appendix 3 - Physiotherapy - Number of Patients waiting for Assessment - October 2021

In response to your query regarding the numbers employed, please note this information is not available in the format requested. However, detailed information on the number of HSE staff grades of those disciplines is publicly available on the HSE website at www.hse.ie. The national version of this report can be found at the hyperlink below. <https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/our-workforce/workforce-reporting/national-reports.html>. I have also attached a copy of this report.

Appendix 4 - Health Service Personnel Census - October 2021

Information pertaining to a more specific area can be found at <https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/our-workforce/workforce-reporting/>, which is broken down by Community Health Organisation.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



Seán McArt

General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations