



20th October 2021

Deputy John Lahart,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 48455/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons in each LHO area waiting for an ophthalmology appointment in primary care as of 30 September 2021 or the latest date available; and the number waiting 0 to 12 weeks, 12 to 26 weeks, 26 to 52 weeks and more than 52 weeks.

- John Lahart

Dear Deputy Lahart,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 48455/21), 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 Ophthalmology services to all eligible service users. In 2020, there were 61,238 patients seen by HSE Community Ophthalmology services.

Please find attached Appendix 1 which contains, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists in Ophthalmology as of August 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 - Ophthalmology - Number of Patients waiting for treatment August 2021

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations