



20<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Deputy Michael Moynihan,  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 48484/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on the occupational therapy first-time assessment waiting list by local health area as of 30 September or the latest date available; the number waiting less than 4, 4 to 12 and more than 12 months, respectively; and the number waiting aged 0 to 4, 5 to 17, 18 to 64 and 65 years of age plus, respectively in tabular form.**

- Michael Moynihan

Dear Deputy Moynihan,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 48484/21) 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 find attached Appendix 1 which contains, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists in Occupational Therapy as of August 2021. Please note where an individual CHO 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 August 2021

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

**Seán McArt**  
General Manager Primary Care  
National Community Operations