



4th November 2021

**Deputy Róisín Shortall,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.**

PQ 51470/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on a waiting list for speech and language therapy by CHO, age category and time waiting, in tabular form.

- Róisín Shortall

Dear Deputy Shortall,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 51470/21) 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 speech and language therapy services to all eligible service users. In 2020, there were 165,657 patients seen by HSE community Speech and Language Therapy services.

Please see attached appendices which contain details of the waiting lists for in Speech and Language Therapy as of September 2021, in tabular form. 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 – Speech and Language Therapy - Total Number of patients awaiting Initial Assessment - September 2021

Appendix 2 – Speech and Language Therapy - Total Number of patients awaiting Initial Therapy - September 2021

Appendix 3 – Speech and Language Therapy - Total Number of patients awaiting Further Therapy - September 2021

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Seán McArt', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Seán McArt

General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations