



4<sup>th</sup> November 2021

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

**PQ 51476/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on a waiting list for ophthalmology 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 51476/21) 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 September 2021, which is the latest available data at this time. 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 - Ophthalmology - Number of Patients waiting for treatment September 2021

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

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