



23rd September 2021

Deputy Matt Carthy,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 42640/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients waiting for audiology appointments per county or the nearest geographical division currently; the corresponding figures for each of the years 2016 to 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Matt Carthy

Dear Deputy Carthy,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 42640/21), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The spread of COVID-19 is posing significant challenges for many service areas, including Audiology 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 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 Audiology services to all eligible service users. In 2020, there were 36,701 Audiology patients seen by HSE community Audiology services.

Please find attached Appendix 1 which contains, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists in Audiology. Please note that the data for 2016 is not available and the available data is by LHO area.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations
Community Operations