



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

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16th December, 2022

Deputy O'Callaghan
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 63032/22 – To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons for each LHO area on the speech and language therapy initial treatment waiting list as of 1 December 2022, or the latest date available; the number who were waiting less than 4, 4 to 12 and more than 12 months; and the number for each category waiting aged 0 to 17 years and those aged 18 years and above in tabular form.

- Jim O'Callaghan

Dear Deputy,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (63032/22) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

It is worth noting that COVID-19 has posed significant challenges for many service areas. In light of these unprecedented challenges, together with the Government's guidance on social distancing, this has unfortunately had unavoidable negative impacts on waiting lists. The HSE continues to work hard to address these issues and find solutions to the difficulties resulting from the ongoing Covid-19 crisis.

The HSE is committed to delivering efficient high quality speech and language therapy care services to all eligible service users. In 2021, there were 205,214 patients seen by HSE community Speech and Language services.

Please find the attached appendix, which contains, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists for Speech and Language in each LHO area, as of October 2022, which is the latest data available at this time.

Appendix 1 – Speech and Language – Number of Patients waiting for treatment October 2022

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations