



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.
D08 W2A8.

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14th March 2022

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

PQ 10624/22 – To ask the Minister for Health if discussions are expected to provide additional appointments for children waiting for audiology appointments; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Richard O'Donoghue

Dear Deputy,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 10624/22) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

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.

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 and on 'Cocooning' for those aged over 70, the HSE has had to reassess its operation of Community Services nationally. The HSE Community Audiology services continued to provide services for patients throughout the COVID pandemic using novel remote technology as well as face to face appointments, though with reduced activity due to the implementation of infection control regimes.

The HSE is actively looking at all options to increase activity and minimise patient wait times nationally; this includes utilising appropriately qualified and competent commercial providers.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations

