

Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí, Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Príomhúil

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

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14<sup>th</sup> March 2022

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

PQ 10674/22 – To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients that are on waiting lists for a hearing test by CHO area; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- David Cullinane

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 10674/22) 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, to The HSE is committed to delivering efficient high quality Audiology services to all eligible service users.

Please see the below appendix, which details the total number of new patients by CHO referred to HSE Community Audiology services, and waiting for hearing assessment.

Appendix 1 – Audiology – Total number of new patients awaiting Hearing Assessment. \*CHO 6 and CHO 7 have effectively worked as one CHO; differentiation however is now in process.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

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

