



Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Seirbhísí Cúram Príomhúil
An Cabhán, Muineachán, Sligeach, Liatroim & Dún na nGall

Head of Service, Primary Care
Cavan, Monaghan, Sligo, Leitrim & Donegal

☎: +353 (0)47-95615/95616
Email: dermot.monaghan@hse.ie

2nd of February 2022

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

Re: PQ4541/22 - "To ask the Minister for Health his plans to address the backlog in audiology appointments in counties Cavan and Monaghan; when he expects the backlog to be cleared; and if he will make a statement on the matter".

Dear Deputy Carthy,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Representation, which you submitted to the Chief Officer, CHO 1 for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The current wait time for Audiology appointments for our paediatric service is 127 weeks and 91 weeks for our adult service.

As you will be aware that the Covid 19 Pandemic has had a detrimental impact on Audiology waiting lists as face-to-face appointments were suspended at various stages over the last 22 months. Our Audiology service maintained a remote service throughout the pandemic however the waiting lists did grow during this period. From the summer of 2021, the Audiology service re-started face-to-face appointments in a phased manner in line with public health guidance.

Audiology services have secured funding for a two year specified purpose contract for a staff grade audiologist and once approved and in post, the Audiologist will be working across Cavan, Monaghan and Louth to help reduce the waiting lists and wait times.

In the meantime, the Audiology services are working very hard to ensure that every appointment is filled and policies and protocols are being followed by staff to ensure a high quality service is provided.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dermot".

Dermot Monaghan,
Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Seirbhísí Cúram Príomhúil
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