



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,  
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Príomhúil

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15<sup>th</sup> February 2022

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

**PQ 4558/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the status of speech and language therapy waiting lists for children; the number waiting more than three months; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**PQ 4559/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the status of occupational therapy waiting lists for children; the number waiting more than three months; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**PQ 4560/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the status of physiotherapy waiting lists for children; the number waiting more than three months; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**- David Cullinane**

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Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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

The spread of COVID-19 is posing significant challenges for many service areas, including all Therapy 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 Therapy Services nationally, to ensure that the assessed needs of those clients with the highest priority are met.

Please find the attached appendices which contains, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists for speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy as of December 2021. This is the latest available data at this time. Please note where an individual LHO was unable to return the waiting list data for the month in question that is noted at the bottom of the waiting list table.

Appendix 1 – Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Initial Therapy - December 2021

Appendix 2 – Occupational Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old Patients Awaiting First Time Assessment December 2021

Appendix 3 – Physiotherapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old Patients waiting for Assessment December 2021



I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Seán McArt".

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