



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Príomhúil

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

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10th February 2022

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

PQ 6253/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons in each CHO area subdivided into primary care centres waiting for a podiatry appointment through primary care services at present for zero to 12, 12 to 24, 24 to 36 and over 36 months; the number of podiatrists employed in each CHO by each individual primary care centre; the vacancies in same; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Fergus O'Dowd

Dear Deputy O'Dowd,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 6253/22) 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.

The HSE is committed to delivering efficient high quality Podiatry services to all eligible service users. In 2021, there were 44,712 patients seen by HSE Community Podiatry services.

Please find attached Appendix 1 which contains, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists in Podiatry as of December 2021, which is the latest available data at this time. Please note that there is no breakdown available of those waiting in each primary care centre. 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.

Detailed information on number of HSE staff grades of those disciplines by location is publicly available on the HSE website at www.hse.ie. The national version of this report can be found at the attached hyperlink: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/our-workforce/workforce-reporting/national-reports.html> or for information pertaining to a more specific area can be found at <https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/our-workforce/workforce-reporting/> broken down by Community Health Organisation, Hospital Group, etc. I have also attached a copy of this report.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Appendix 1 - Podiatry - No of Patients waiting for treatment - December 2021



Yours sincerely,

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

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations