



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Príomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.
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Office of the Head of Operations,
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1st March 2022

Deputy Pádraig O'Sullivan,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 8300/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of children under 18 years of age who are waiting for a first assessment for speech and language therapy at the end of January 2022 or the latest date available by LHO; the number waiting less than 4 and 4 to 12 months in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 8301/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of children under 18 years of age who are waiting for further speech and language therapy at the end of January 2022 or the latest date available by LHO; the number waiting less than 4 and 4 to 12 months in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 8307/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of children under 18 years of age who are waiting for a podiatry appointment in primary care at the end of January 2022 or the latest date available by LHO; the number waiting less than 4 and 4 to 12 months in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 8304/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of children under 18 years of age who are waiting for an audiology appointment in primary care at the end of January 2022 or the latest date available by LHO; the number waiting less than 4 and 4 to 12 months in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Pádraig O'Sullivan

Dear Deputy O'Sullivan,

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 children for speech and language therapy, podiatry and audiology as of January 2022. 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 January 2022

Appendix 2 – Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Further Therapy - January 2022

Appendix 3 – Podiatry - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old Patients waiting for treatment January 2022

Appendix 4 – Audiology - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old Patients waiting for treatment January 2022

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Seán McArt'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations