



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Príomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
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2nd February 2022

Deputy Cian O'Callaghan,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 2119/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons waiting for a primary care speech and language therapy appointment by CHO, LHO, age and time waiting; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Cian O'Callaghan

Dear Deputy O'Callaghan,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 2119/22) 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 Speech and Language Therapy services to all eligible service users. In 2021, there were 205,214 patients seen by HSE community Speech and Language Therapy services.

Please find attached Appendix 1 which contains, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists in Speech and Language Therapy 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 - No of Patients awaiting Initial Therapy - December 2021

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations