



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,  
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Príomhúil

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

Office of the Head of Operations,  
Community Operations - Primary Care

Rm 243, Dr Steevens Hospital,  
Steevens Lane, Dublin 8. D08 W2A8.

[www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)  
[@hselive](https://twitter.com/hselive)

T: 01 6352209/2682  
E: [community.primarycare@hse.ie](mailto:community.primarycare@hse.ie)

8<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Deputy Jennifer Murnane O'Connor,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 2930/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on a waiting list for occupational therapy by CHO, age category and time waiting in tabular form; if his attention has been drawn to lengthy waiting lists countrywide; if there are plans to support those waiting to access a service; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**- Jennifer Murnane O'Connor**

---

Dear Deputy Murnane O'Connor,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 2930/22) 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 Occupational Therapy services to all eligible service users. In 2021, there were 337,246 Occupational Therapy patients seen by HSE community Occupational Therapy services.

Community Services are currently considering opportunities to address wait lists in the short, medium and longer term. The scale of the current waiting list challenge has increased for a number of factors including the reprioritisation of services during the pandemic response leading to increased numbers of people waiting and the complexity of their needs may have also increased. A range of measures to address waiting lists, including occupational therapy, are being considered which could include testing the potential capacity and skills of the private sector, the feasibility of which will be determined by alignment with policy, clinical guidance, availability of appropriately qualified professionals and compliance with national GDPR and procurement rules and regulations.

Please find attached Appendix 1 which contain, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists in Occupational 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 - Occupational Therapy - Number of Patients Awaiting First Time 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