



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

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12th July 2022

Deputy Michael Moynihan,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 36348/22 – To ask the Minister for Health the number of people on the speech and language therapy assessment waiting list; and within that the numbers waiting less than 4 months, the number waiting 4-12 months and the number waiting more than 12 months; if he will also indicate for each category the numbers waiting aged 0-17 and those aged 18 years and above in each local health area as of 1 July 2022 or the latest date available, in tabular form.

- Michael Moynihan

Dear Deputy Moynihan,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 36348/22) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The spread of Covid-19 has posed 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 the attached appendices, which contain, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists for Speech and Language Therapy Initial Assessment (total number and number of 0-17 years & 11 months old) as of May 2022, which is the latest data available at this time. Please note that where an individual LHO was unable to return the waiting list for the month in question, that it is noted at the bottom of the waiting list table.

Please note, in some cases, breakdown of data by age is unavailable.

Appendix 1 – Speech and Language Therapy – No of Patients awaiting Initial Assessment May 2022

Appendix 2 – Speech and Language Therapy – No of 0-17 years and 11 months old patients awaiting Initial Assessment – May 2022

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