

Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí, Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Príomhúil

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15<sup>th</sup> July 2022

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

PQ 36351/11 – To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on the occupational therapy first time 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 0-4, 5-17, 18-64 and aged 65 years plus in each local health area as of 1 July 2022 or the latest date available, in tabular form.

- Michael Moynihan

Dear Deputy,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 36351/22) 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 challanges, 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 patients seen by HSE community Occupational Therapy services.

Please find the attached appendix, which contains, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists for Occupational Therapy 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 that the breakdown of waiting list data by age is unavailable.

Appendix 1 – Occupational Therapy – Number of Patients Awaiting First Time Assessment May 2022

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

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Seán McArt General Manager Primary Care National Community Operations