



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

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
[@hselive](https://twitter.com/hselive)

T: 01 6352209/2682
E: community.primarycare@hse.ie

13th July 2022

Deputy John Lahart,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 36389/22 – To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons in each LHO area waiting for a counselling appointment in primary care as of 1 July 2022 or the latest date available; and the number waiting 0 to 12, 12 to 26, 26 to 52 and more than 52 weeks.

- John Lahart

Dear Deputy Lahart,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 36389/22) 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 Primary Care Counselling services to all eligible service users. In 2021, there were 45,120 patients seen by HSE Primary Care Counselling services.

Please find the attached appendix, which contains, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists for Counselling as of May 2022, which is the latest data available at this time. Please note that the waiting list for Primary Care Psychology is the same as that for Counselling. 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.

Appendix 1 – Counselling – Number of Patients waiting for treatment May 2022

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations

