



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,  
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

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26<sup>th</sup> July 2022

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

**PQ 37503/22 – To ask the Minister for Health if he will report on the current state of speech and language therapy waiting lists; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**- 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 37503/22) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

It is worth noting that COVID-19 continues to pose 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, the HSE has had to reassess its operation of Community Therapy Services nationally. This has unfortunately had unavoidable negative impacts on waiting lists. The HSE continues to work hard to address these issues and find solutions to the difficulties resulting from the ongoing Covid-19 crisis.

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, as of June 2022, which is the latest data available at this time.

Appendix 1 – Speech and Language Therapy – Total Number of patients awaiting Initial Assessment – June 2022

Appendix 2 – Speech and Language Therapy – Total Number of patients awaiting Initial Therapy – June 2022

Appendix 3 – Speech and Language Therapy – Total Number of Patients awaiting Further Therapy – June 2022

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Seán McArt



General Manager Primary Care  
National Community Operations