



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

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22nd July 2022

Deputy Pauline Tully,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 39102/22 – To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons waiting for a speech and language appointment in Ireland; the number who have been waiting less the number who have been waiting less than 3, 3-6, 6-12 and more than 12 months broken down in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Pauline Tully

Dear Deputy Tully,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 39102/22) 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 appendix, which contains, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists for Speech and Language Therapy as of May 2022, which is the latest data available at this time.

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

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

Appendix 3 – Speech and Language Therapy – Total Number of patients awaiting Further Therapy – May 2022

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



Maeve Raeside

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General Manager Primary Care

National Community Operations