



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Príomhúil

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22nd July 2022

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

PQ 39103/22 – To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons waiting for an occupational therapy appointment in Ireland; 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 39103/22) 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 Occupational Therapy services to all eligible service users. In 2021, there were 337,256 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.

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

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations

