



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,  
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**08th August 2022,**

**Deputy David Cullinane,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.**

**PQ 41236/22 – To ask the Minister for Health the number of children on CHO waiting lists for speech and language therapy for initial assessment, initial therapy and intervention and further therapy and intervention lists by CHO in tabular form; the number by wait length; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**- David Cullinane**

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Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 41236/22) 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 child and adolescent Speech and Language Therapy, as of June 2022, which is the latest data available at this time.

Appendix 1 – Speech and Language Therapy – Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Initial Assessment – June 2022

Appendix 2 – Speech and Language Therapy – Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Initial Therapy – June 2022

Appendix 3 – Speech and Language Therapy – Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Further Therapy

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Seán McArt'.

**Seán McArt**  
General Manager Primary Care  
National Community Operations