



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

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13th July 2022

Deputy Róisín Shortall,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 34652/22 – To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on a waiting list for counselling services by CHO, age category and time waiting, in tabular form.

PQ 34649/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on a waiting list for audiology by CHO, age category and time waiting, in tabular form.

PQ 34643/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on a waiting list for physiotherapy by CHO, age category and time waiting, in tabular form.

PQ 34651/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on a waiting list for community psychology services by CHO, age category and time waiting, in tabular form.

PQ 34642/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on a waiting list for speech and language therapy by CHO, age category and time waiting, in tabular form.

PQ 34646/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on a waiting list for occupational therapy by CHO, age category and time waiting in tabular form.

PQ 34654/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on a waiting list for dietetics by CHO, age category and time waiting, in tabular form.

PQ 34648/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on a waiting list for ophthalmology by CHO, age category and time waiting in tabular form.

- Róisín Shortall

Dear Deputy,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions (PQ 34652/22), (PQ 34650/22), (PQ 34649/22), (PQ 34643/22), (PQ 34651/22), (PQ 34642/22), (PQ 34646/22), (PQ 34654/22), (PQ 34648/22) 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 Therapy services to all eligible service users.

Please find the attached appendices, which contain, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists for Counselling, Audiology, Physiotherapy, Psychology, Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Dietetics and Ophthalmology as of May 2022, which is the latest data available at this time. Please note that the psychology waiting list in Primary Care includes those waiting for counselling appointments in Primary Care. 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 – Psychology (Counselling) - Number of Patients waiting for treatment May 2022

Appendix 2 – Audiology – Number of Patients waiting for treatment May 2022

Appendix 3 – Physiotherapy – Number of Patients waiting for Assessment May 2022

Appendix 4 – Speech and Language Therapy – Total Number of patients awaiting Initial Assessment – May 2022

Appendix 5 – Speech and Language Therapy – Total Number of patients awaiting Initial Therapy – May 2022

Appendix 6 – Speech and Language Therapy – Total Number of patients awaiting Further Therapy – May 2022

Appendix 7 – Occupational Therapy – Number of Patients Awaiting First Time Assessment May 2022

Appendix 8 – Dietetics – Number of Patients waiting for treatment May 2022

Appendix 9 – Ophthalmology – Number of Patients waiting for treatment May 2022

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Seán McArt'.

Seán McArt

General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations