



**Cúram Sláinte
Phobail, Iarthar**
ag freastal ar Ghailimh,
Maigheo agus Ros Comáin

**Community
Healthcare West**
serving Galway, Mayo
and Roscommon

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9th March 2022

Deputy Denis Naughten
Unit 3 Golf Links Road
Roscommon
Co. Roscommon
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PQ 12495/22

To ask the Minister for Health the waiting time for access to services following initial assessment by speech and language services in County Roscommon; if children are placed on a further waiting list following initial assessment or if they are given access to services straight away; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Naughten,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

In Primary Care, Children's Waiting Lists for Speech and Language Therapy are prioritised following initial assessment and longest wait times range between 7 to 11 months for higher priority cases and longest low priority cases are waiting up to 18 months. Waiting lists were impacted by the pandemic and redeployment of staff. Efforts to reduce waiting times to pre-pandemic levels continue however recruitment of staff has been an issue.

Primary Care Speech and Language Therapy in Roscommon see children for initial assessment in a relatively short time period in order to identify and prioritise access for those with greatest need. We have always operated a Waiting List for Therapy following Assessment, however we are currently not in a position to take children on directly following Initial Assessment.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

pp Michelle Gan

Mary Warde
Head of Primary Care
Galway, Mayo and Roscommon