



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,  
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Príomhúil

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12<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Deputy Mattie McGrath,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 16053/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of children waiting for occupational therapy in County Tipperary; the average length of time waiting; the number of therapists available; the number of positions vacant; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**- Mattie McGrath**

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Dear Deputy McGrath,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 16053/22) 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 therapy services to all eligible service users. In 2021, there were 337,246 children and adults seen by HSE community Occupational Therapy services.

Please note that we do not report the average current wait times for Occupational therapy services. However, we do report the most recent wait times. Please find attached Appendix 1 which contains, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists for children in Occupational Therapy as of February 2022, which is the latest available data at this time. Please note where an individual LHO was unable to return the waiting list data for the month in question that is noted at the bottom of the waiting list table.

Appendix 1 - Occupational Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old Patients Awaiting First Time Assessment in North Tipperary East Limerick & South Tipperary - February 2022

In response to your query regarding the number of Occupational Therapists available and the number of positions vacant in County Tipperary, please find attached Appendix 2 which contains the requested information.

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



### Appendix 1

Occupational Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old Patients Awaiting First Time Assessment in North Tipperary East Limerick & South Tipperary - February 2022												
CHO	Former LHO	0 - 4 Yrs 11 Months					5 - 17 Yrs 11 Months					TOTAL
		0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks - ≤ 26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52	> 52 weeks	0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks - ≤ 26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52	> 52 weeks	
CHO 3	North Tipperary East Limerick	6	7	2	0	3	33	36	39	31	55	212
CHO 5	South Tipperary	13	7	32	3	7	43	46	43	31	101	326
Total		19	14	34	3	10	76	82	82	62	156	538

### Appendix 2

Primary Care Occupational Therapy Services		
	North Tipperary (CHO 3)	South Tipperary (CHO 5)
Number of therapists available (WTE)	0.7 WTE actual (1 WTE post)	3.4
Number of positions vacant (WTE)	Nil	2.8