



Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

Office of the Head of Operations,
Disability Services/Community Operations,
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8th June 2022

Deputy Michael Moynihan,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
e-mail: michael.moynihan@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Moynihan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary question, which was submitted to this department for response.

PQ 26631/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons currently on the speech and language therapy assessment waiting list, the speech and language therapy initial treatment waiting list, the speech and language therapy further treatment waiting list and the occupational therapy first-time assessment waiting list; and the number that have been waiting for more than 12 months on each list.

HSE Response

The HSE acknowledges the challenges in meeting the demand for children's disability services and is acutely conscious of how this impacts on children and their families.

Children requiring interventions including health and therapy services would access services through Primary Care Teams in CHO Areas as well as through Children's Disability Services.

HSE Disability Services does not gather data on services provided through other service areas such as Primary Care, however, Primary Care Operations has compiled the latest available waiting list data, on services for which they collate data, for the end of April 2022.

Please see:

- Table 1 in the Appendix includes the data for the number of persons currently on the speech and language therapy assessment waiting list,
- Table 2 in the Appendix includes the data for the number of persons currently on the speech and language therapy initial treatment waiting list,
- Table 3 in the Appendix includes the data for the number of persons currently on the speech and language therapy further treatment waiting list,
- Table 4 in the Appendix includes the data for the number of persons currently on the occupational therapy first-time assessment waiting list.

Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs):

All 91 Children's Disability Network Teams are now in place. These teams provide services and supports for all children with complex needs within a defined geographic area.

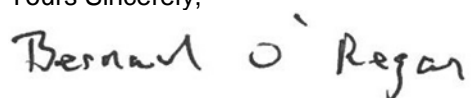


CDNTs are teams of health and social care professionals (e.g., occupational therapists, psychologists, physiotherapists, speech and language therapists, social workers) and others disciplines (e.g., nursing). The reconfiguration into CDNTs and the resultant staffing mix was influenced by a number of factors including the staff resources of existing services and the available skill mix. Hence, some CDNTs may include disciplines such as nurses, family support workers or early educators.

Regardless of the nature of their disability, where they live, or the school they attend, every child with complex needs and their families have access to the full range of family centred services and supports of their CDNT according to their individual needs. This includes universal, targeted and specialist supports, such as individual therapeutic intervention and access to specialist consultation and assessment when needed. Supports are provided as is feasible in the child's natural environments - their home, school and community.

Work is ongoing on mapping specialised services and supports, and paediatric supports available and gap analysis for children with highly complex needs, in order to develop standardised approaches to integrated pathways of support for CDNTs and Primary Care staff.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernard O'Regan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

**Mr Bernard O'Regan,
Head of Operations - Disability Services,
Community Operations**

Appendix; Table 1:

Speech and Language Therapy - Total Number of patients awaiting Initial Assessment - April 2022							
CHO Area	0 to 4 Mths	4 months & 1 day - 8 months	8 months & 1 day - 12 months	12 months & 1 day - 18 months	18 months & 1 day to 24 months	>24 months	Total
CHO1	973	556	426	228	20	125	2,328
CHO2	1,129	475	217	29	13	0	1,863
CHO3	1,000	609	158	83	38	39	1,927
CHO4	1,188	349	16	0	0	0	1,553
CHO5	1,007	646	428	342	110	156	2,689
CHO6	578	311	149	55	0	0	1,093
CHO7	876	779	643	377	61	27	2,763
CHO8	1,353	586	136	46	25	83	2,229
CHO9	876	681	338	76	5	5	1,981
Total	8,980	4,992	2,511	1,236	272	435	18,426

Table 2:

Speech and Language Therapy - Total Number of patients awaiting Initial Therapy - April 2022							
CHO Area	0 to 4 Mths	4 months & 1 day - 8 months	8 months & 1 day - 12 months	12 months & 1 day - 18 months	18 months & 1 day to 24 months	>24 months	Total
CHO1	102	15	1	0	0	0	118
CHO2	416	282	167	50	5	0	920
CHO3	328	235	103	30	8	26	730
CHO4	535	487	469	163	101	0	1,755
CHO5	384	353	273	214	113	407	1,744
CHO6	57	72	53	3	0	0	185
CHO7	161	135	85	86	44	163	674
CHO8	168	196	62	30	1	0	457
CHO9	523	374	570	387	25	0	1,879
Total	2,674	2,149	1,783	963	297	596	8,462

Table 3:

Speech and Language Therapy - Total Number of patients awaiting Further Therapy - April 2022							
CHO Area	0 to 4 Mths	4 months & 1 day - 8 months	8 months & 1 day - 12 months	12 months & 1 day - 18 months	18 months & 1 day to 24 months	>24 months	Total
CHO1	538	126	107	12	7	2	792
CHO2	755	433	244	101	95	203	1,831
CHO3	554	585	256	111	34	147	1,687
CHO4	726	779	457	291	78	5	2,336
CHO5	69	377	340	172	60	124	1,142
CHO6	97	51	12	1	0	0	161
CHO7	236	281	222	105	94	416	1,354
CHO8	214	94	30	20	8	3	369
CHO9	850	569	521	541	44	51	2,576
Total	4,039	3,295	2,189	1,354	420	951	12,248

Table 4:

Occupational Therapy - Number of Patients Awaiting First Time Assessment April 2022																					
CHO Area	0 - 4 Yrs 11 Months					5 - 17 Yrs 11 Months					18 - 64 Yrs 11 Months					65 Yrs+					TOTAL
	0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks - ≤ 26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52 weeks	> 52 weeks	0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks - ≤ 26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52 weeks	> 52 weeks	0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks - ≤ 26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52 weeks	> 52 weeks	0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks - ≤ 26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52 weeks	> 52 weeks	
CHO1 Total	14	16	32	11	52	101	59	100	92	390	85	24	8	0	0	458	153	35	22	3	1,655
CHO2 Total	57	59	46	36	114	241	106	68	111	720	144	64	39	26	163	580	378	248	169	605	3,974
CHO3 Total	22	18	10	3	1	115	103	65	70	57	114	89	49	26	20	596	409	264	162	110	2,303
CHO4 Total	118	147	88	32	27	405	505	562	317	809	150	84	91	46	65	647	407	336	247	205	5,288
CHO5 Total	55	54	85	51	144	156	230	172	216	1,354	119	89	78	62	159	627	422	326	317	624	5,340
CHO6 Total	26	18	21	2	5	71	89	44	34	101	51	34	25	15	4	494	273	161	89	13	1,570
CHO7 Total	63	88	30	31	40	207	416	134	152	462	153	78	49	29	2	675	471	284	112	37	3,513
CHO8 Total	119	71	40	28	56	253	176	78	57	326	155	115	72	49	74	765	557	354	232	280	3,857
CHO9 Total	66	32	33	27	42	195	187	169	186	779	162	108	75	76	178	745	495	386	319	725	4,985
National Total	540	503	385	221	481	1,744	1,871	1,392	1,235	4,998	1,133	685	486	329	665	5,587	3,565	2,394	1,669	2,602	32,485

