

08th June 2022

Ms Holly Cairns, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 26930/22

"To ask the Minister for Health the steps that he is taking to address the long waiting lists for occupational therapy for adults in County Cork."

Dear Deputy Cairns,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The number of adults on the Occupational Therapy waiting list in County Cork is 1,617 of which 169 people have been waiting over one year.

The emergence of COVID-19 in Ireland in March 2020 severely disrupted the delivery of health services in Ireland, including Occupational Therapy services and while services have resumed, adherence to infection prevention and control measures to reduce the risk of the spread of COVID-19, has impacted delivery. While the demand continues to grow, it is hoped that the introduction of the following steps presently being taken will address this issue;

- 40 Occupational Therapy Posts have been approved within the enhanced community care community healthcare network programme, 36 of the posts are in place as of 08.06.2022.
- Increase in multidisciplinary working and regular primary care team meetings at network level to coordinate care and provide timely response.
- New initiatives have been introduced including tele-health consultations, clinics and group work where clinically appropriate. However, by the nature of the Occupational Therapy work, it remains a largely domiciliary service.
- Budget for funding equipment has recently increased which has and will continue to significantly improve waiting times for wheelchairs and other essential equipment.

It is anticipated that the measures outlined above will assist in addressing the waiting list and delivering services in a more effective and efficient matter.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Priscilla Lynch
Head of Service - Primary Care
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare