



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,  
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

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**29<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

**Deputy David Cullinane,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.**

**PQ 57609 /22 –** . To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients on community healthcare waiting lists for each care service for October 2019, in tabular form; the breakdown by length of wait and by age; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

**- David Cullinane**

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Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 57609/22) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

It is worth noting that 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, the HSE has had to reassess its operation of Community Therapy Services nationally. This has unfortunately had unavoidable negative impacts on waiting lists. The HSE continues to work hard to address these issues and find solutions to the difficulties resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The HSE is committed to delivering efficient high quality Counselling services to all eligible service users. In 2021, there were just over 1.2 million patients seen by HSE community services, including Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, SLT, Podiatry, Ophthalmology, Audiology, Psychology and Dietetics.

Please find the attached appendix, which contains, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists for each care service, as of October 2019, which is the latest data available at this time.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

**Seán McArt**  
General Manager Primary Care  
National Community Operations