



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,  
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Príomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,  
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.  
D08 W2A8.

Office of the Head of Operations,  
Community Operations - Primary Care

Rm 243, Dr Steevens Hospital,  
Steevens Lane, Dublin 8. D08 W2A8.

[www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)  
[@hselive](mailto:@hselive)

T: 01 6352209/2682  
E: [community.primarycare@hse.ie](mailto:community.primarycare@hse.ie)

19<sup>th</sup> October 2022

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

**PQ 49854/22 – To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients on community healthcare waiting lists for each primary care service for July, August and September 2022 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 49854/22) 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 ongoing Covid-19 crisis.

The HSE is committed to delivering efficient high quality community therapy services to all eligible service users. In 2021, there were 1,247,084 patients seen by HSE community therapy services.

Please find the attached appendices, which contain, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists for Audiology, Dietetics, Occupational Therapy, Ophthalmology, Physiotherapy, Podiatry, Psychology, Speech and Language Therapy (Initial Assessment), Speech and Language Therapy (Initial Therapy) and Speech and Language Therapy (Further Therapy) services in each LHO area, for July and August 2022, which is the latest data available at this time.

- Appendix 1 – Audiology – Number of Patients waiting for treatment July 2022
- Appendix 2 – Dietetics – Number of Patients waiting for treatment July 2022
- Appendix 3 – Occupational Therapy – Number of Patients Awaiting First Time Assessment July 2022
- Appendix 4 – Ophthalmology – Number of Patients waiting for treatment July 2022
- Appendix 5 – Physiotherapy – Number of Patients waiting for Assessment July 2022
- Appendix 6 – Podiatry – Number of Patients waiting for treatment July 2022
- Appendix 7 – Psychology – Number of Patients waiting for treatment July 2022
- Appendix 8 – Speech and Language Therapy – Total Number of patients awaiting Initial Assessment – July 2022
- Appendix 9 – Speech and Language Therapy – Total Number of patients awaiting Initial Therapy – July 2022



- Appendix 10 – Speech and Language Therapy – Total Number of patients awaiting Further Therapy
- Appendix 11 – Audiology – Number of Patients waiting for treatment August 2022
- Appendix 12 – Dietetics – Number of Patients waiting for treatment August 2022
- Appendix 13 – Occupational Therapy – Number of Patients Awaiting First Time Assessment August 2022
- Appendix 14 – Ophthalmology – Number of Patients waiting for treatment August 2022
- Appendix 15 – Physiotherapy – Number of Patients waiting for Assessment August 2022
- Appendix 16 – Podiatry – Number of Patients waiting for treatment August 2022
- Appendix 17 – Psychology – Number of Patients waiting for treatment August 2022
- Appendix 18 – Speech and Language Therapy – Total Number of patients awaiting Initial Assessment – August 2022
- Appendix 19 – Speech and Language Therapy – Total Number of patients awaiting Initial Therapy – August 2022
- Appendix 20 – Speech and Language Therapy – Total Number of patients awaiting Further Therapy – August 2022

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Seán McArt'.

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