



Alan Farrell TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

19th October 2022

PQ 50224/22 – *“To ask the Minister for Health the number of children that are waiting on a primary care speech and language therapy appointment in CHO DNCC; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”*

– Alan Farrell TD

Dear Deputy Farrell

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Waiting for Initial Therapy	Waiting for Further Therapy	Waiting for Speech & Language Therapy (SLT) Assessment
1,728	2,336	1,884

Covid-19 had a significant impact on SLT capacity, as services had to revert to seeing children individually for assessment and therapy. The National Access Criteria has been implemented which has also led to an increase in demand for services.

Currently we have a number of Paediatric Speech and Language Therapist vacancies, which is also affecting capacity. However, recruitment is ongoing across CHO DNCC and a number of panels have been formed following interview process and it is anticipated that some of these vacancies will be filled from these panels.

While children are waiting for SLT, there is an advice clinic available. The attached information leaflet is sent to all parents of children who stutter along with advice and resources provided to those waiting for therapy to allow home and school practice.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Tom O'Brien
Head of Service Primary Care