



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Príomhúil

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24th October 2022

Deputy Michael Moynihan,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 50844/22 – To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on the speech and language therapy assessment waiting list for each LHO area as of 1 October 2022, or the latest date available; the numbers waiting less than four months; the number waiting 4-12 and the number who were waiting more than 12 months; and the numbers waiting for each category aged 0-17 years and those aged 18 years and above in tabular form.

- Michael Moynihan

Dear Deputy Moynihan,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 50844/22) 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 Speech and Language Therapy services to all eligible service users. In 2021, there were 205,214 patients seen by HSE community Speech and Language Therapy services.

Please find the attached appendix, which contains, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists for Speech and Language Therapy Initial Assessment in each LHO area, as of September 2022, which is the latest data available at this time.

Appendix 1 – Speech and Language Therapy – Total Number of patients awaiting Initial Assessment – September 2022

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



Seán McArt

General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations