



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Príomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
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18th October 2022

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

PQ 50847/22 –To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons for each LHO area on the occupational therapy first time assessment waiting list as of 1 October 2022, or the latest date available; the numbers waiting less than four months; the number waiting 4-12 months; the number waiting more than 12 months; and the numbers for each category waiting aged 0-4 years, 5-17 years, 18-64 years and aged 65 years plus 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 50847/22) 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 Occupational Therapy services to all eligible service users. In 2021, there were 337,246 patients seen by HSE community Occupational Therapy services.

Please find the attached appendix, which contains, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists for Occupational Therapy in each LHO area, as of August 2022, which is the latest data available at this time.

Appendix 1 – Occupational Therapy – Number of Patients Awaiting First Time Assessment August 2022

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations