



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Príomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.
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18th October 2022

Deputy John Lahart,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 50866/22 – To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons in each LHO area waiting for a counselling appointment in primary care as of 1 October 2022 or the latest date available; and the number waiting 0 to 12, 12 to 26, 26 to 52 and the number waiting more than 52 weeks.

- John Lahart

Dear Deputy Lahart,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 50866/22) 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 Counselling services to all eligible service users. In 2021, there were 45,120 patients seen by HSE community Counselling services.

Please find the attached appendix, which contains, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists for Counselling in each LHO area, as of September 2022, which is the latest data available at this time. Please note that the waiting list for Primary Care Psychology and Counselling are the same.

Appendix 1 – Psychology – Number of Patients waiting for treatment September 2022

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations