

3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2022

Mr Brendan Griffin TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 52365/22**

**"To ask the Minister for Health if a locum audiologist will be put in place in Kerry to cover the public audiologist currently on maternity leave; if he will detail the impact this uncovered leave has had on the waiting list and provide data regarding the current numbers on the list in Kerry including waiting times for those on the list; and if he will make a statement on the matter."**

Dear Deputy Griffin,

The Health Service Executive have been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted for the Minister for Health for a response.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare audiology service is provided by a team of audiologists who assess clients with hearing difficulties and support them through each stage of their care pathway, from initial assessment to hearing aid fitting and follow-up care. Referrals to the service are received directly from GPs or from ENT Consultants.

At the end of September 2022, 542 adults in Kerry were waiting for a hearing test or review appointment. The wait time for a test was 116 weeks and wait time for review was 58 weeks.

The audiologist based in Tralee is currently on statutory leave and recruitment for a replacement audiologist is ongoing with an anticipated commencement date of January 2023. In the interim partial cover of 0.4wte is being provided.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



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**Priscilla Lynch**  
**Head of Service - Primary Care,**  
**Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**