

21st September 2022

Deputy Denis Naughten
Unit 3 Golf Links Road
Roscommon
Co. Roscommon
F42 YX65

PQ 44775/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of children currently awaiting occupational therapy appointments in counties Roscommon and Galway; the average waiting time for an appointment; the steps being taken to address the waiting lists; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Naughten,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

There are currently 93 children waiting a Primary Care Occupational Therapy appointment in Roscommon. The average waiting time for an appointment is 11 months, however appointments are offered on a needs basis in the first instance rather than in date of referral received, therefore the highest priority children are seen first. An existing vacancy has recently been filled and the waiting list is being addressed.

In June 2022, there were 200 children transferred from Enable Ireland to Primary Care Services. Therefore, there are currently 501 children waiting for a Primary Care Occupational Therapy appointment in Galway. The average waiting time for an appointment is 11 months. An additional Senior Occupational Therapist commenced in Network 8 (Ballinasloe) in August 2022, and a Staff Grade is due to take up post in November 2022.

These additional posts will aid in addressing the current waiting lists.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

pp *Michelle Egan.*

Mary Warde
Head of Primary Care
Galway, Mayo and Roscommon