



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

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21st September 2022

**Deputy Shortall,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.**

PQ 46339/22 – To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on a waiting list for speech and language therapy by CHO, age category and time waiting in tabular form.

- Róisín Shortall

Dear Deputy Shortall,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 46339/22) 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 appendices, which contain, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists for Speech and Language Therapy Initial Assessment, Initial Therapy and Further Therapy in each CHO area, as of July 2022, which is the latest data available at this time.

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

Appendix 2 – Speech and Language Therapy – Total Number of patients awaiting Initial Therapy – July 2022

Appendix 3 – Speech and Language Therapy – Total Number of patients awaiting Further Therapy – July 2022

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Seán McArt



General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations