

11th May, 2023

Mr. Brendan Griffin, TD
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ: 20201/23

“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the average waiting times for occupational therapy for children in County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Griffin,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth for response.

North Kerry: Occupational Therapy is provided to children and young adults by the Kerry Children’s Disability Network Teams through intense, targeted, Universal Interdisciplinary Team intervention. Children and young adults with a physical disability, life limiting conditions, post-operative care and postural management are prioritised for Occupational Therapy and not waitlisted.

In addition Interdisciplinary Universal Parent Information Sessions are provided to parents 3 - 4 times a year followed by an intense appointment with the Occupational Therapist to discuss child’s needs. Interdisciplinary Target Groups are provided to children and young adults throughout the year.

West Kerry: OT inputs are prioritised according to need. Priority cases include; infants, children with physical disability with high equipment needs, followed by children who require OT input to access another service such as education or housing. These priority cases are responded to within a matter of weeks. It is difficult to provide general waiting times for other needs as these are responded to, based on individual circumstances/ needs and vary accordingly.

South Kerry: Average waiting time less than 6 months for OT intervention /assessment.

Children’s Disability Network Team	Waiting time for Initial Assessment with Occupational Therapist involvement	Factors that impact assessment time
North Kerry	7 months	Statutory Leave: Sept 2021 – Oct 2022 Vacant post: Jan- July 2022
West Kerry	8.65 months	
South Kerry	<6 months	

WTE allocations to the three teams is as follows:

Children's Disability Network Team	Approved WTE per CHO4 CDNT Staff Census Dec 2022	Approved WTE Occupational Therapy Posts per CHO4 CDNT Staff Census Dec 2022
North Kerry	20.32	3.5
West Kerry	20.93	3.21
South Kerry	29.39	3.8

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

Yours sincerely,



Ms. Majella Daly
Head of Disability Services,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare

