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17th February 2023

Deputy Duncan Smith
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ 5784/23 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of children on waiting lists and the average length of time spent on waiting lists as of 31 December 2022; and his proposals for addressing this for specific HSE primary care services (details supplied). · Speech and language therapy; · Physiotherapy ; · Occupational therapy ; · Dietetics; · Psychology ; · Social work ; · Dental ; · Child and adolescent mental health services ; · Assessment services for children with disability; · Treatment services for children with disability.

-Duncan Smith

Dear Deputy Smith,

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

The tables below contain Community Healthcare waiting list data as at the end of December 2022 for individuals aged less than 18 years old. Please note that not all waiting list data is captured by age breakdown and the data is also subject to validation and therefore likely to change. The data in relation to social work is not available in the format requested.

Speech & Language Therapy			
	Total	<52 weeks	>52 weeks
Total	19,554	17,178	2,376
CHO 1	2,441	1,978	463
CHO 2	1,660	1,576	84
CHO 3	1,617	1,506	111
CHO 4	1,669	1,669	0
CHO 5	2,526	2,022	504
CHO 6	1,198	1,076	122
CHO 7	3,388	2,622	766
CHO 8	2,479	2,287	192
CHO 9	2,576	2,442	134

Physiotherapy						
< 18 years old	0 - < 12 weeks	>12 weeks - <26 weeks	>26 weeks but <39 weeks	>39 weeks but <52 weeks	>52 weeks	Total
National	3,203	1,794	911	523	1,397	7,828
CHO 1	330	179	41	14	161	725
CHO 2	290	136	126	57	142	751
CHO 3	277	101	71	32	21	502
CHO 4	563	210	111	97	260	1,241
CHO 5	381	157	76	45	88	747
CHO 6	221	100	37	26	≤5	385
CHO 7	402	326	158	71	158	1,115
CHO 8	463	329	184	108	277	1,361
CHO 9	276	256	107	73	289	1,001

Occupational Therapy						
< 18 years old	0 - < 12 weeks	>12 weeks - <26 weeks	>26 weeks but <39 weeks	>39 weeks but <52 weeks	>52 weeks	Total
National	2,486	2,482	2,394	1,722	5,417	14,501
CHO 1	157	172	109	64	241	743
CHO 2	265	227	300	174	707	1,673
CHO 3	105	99	169	84	98	555
CHO 4	682	742	627	413	952	3,416
CHO 5	235	245	239	210	1,214	2,143
CHO 6	108	105	86	31	11	341
CHO 7	253	264	285	337	566	1,705
CHO 8	477	354	315	230	768	2,144
CHO 9	204	274	264	179	860	1,781

Dietetics						
< 18 years old	0 - < 12 weeks	>12 weeks - <26 weeks	>26 weeks but <39 weeks	>39 weeks but <52 weeks	>52 weeks	Total
National	1,681	1,177	828	528	2,267	6,481
CHO 1	151	116	38	9	≤5	315
CHO 2	230	130	129	65	394	948
CHO 3	58	78	119	113	646	1,014
CHO 4	552	350	212	115	87	1,316
CHO 5	185	171	117	87	715	1,275
CHO 6	53	22	8	≤5	6	93
CHO 7	110	60	53	44	209	476
CHO 8	186	184	100	70	159	699
CHO 9	156	66	52	21	50	345

Psychology						
< 18 years old	0 - < 12 weeks	>12 weeks - <26 weeks	>26 weeks but <39 weeks	>39 weeks but <52 weeks	>52 weeks	Total
National	2,189	2,176	1,941	1,359	4,270	11,935
CHO 1	168	237	199	166	189	959
CHO 2	152	168	177	120	564	1,181
CHO 3	157	113	75	34	15	394
CHO 4	297	261	313	229	925	2,025
CHO 5	351	345	208	131	192	1,227
CHO 6	116	89	114	47	33	399
CHO 7	288	314	375	358	1,379	2,714
CHO 8	271	280	131	89	6	777
CHO 9	389	369	349	185	967	2,259

Q4	Orthodontics	
(Grade 4 and 5) on the treatment waiting list longer than 4 years		
Total	2,118	
DML	261	12%
DNE	305	14%
SOUTH	1,360	64%
WEST	192	9%

Assessment of Need under the Disability Act, 2005

The Assessment of Need process is set out in the Disability Act, 2005. The aim of an Assessment of Need under the Disability Act is to identify whether a person has a disability, any health and education needs arising from that disability, as well as what services are required to meet those needs.

The numbers of applications for AON under the Act have risen steadily since its implementation in June 2007. 6,755 applications for AON were received in 2022. This was the highest number of applications received in any year since Part 2 of the Act was commenced in June 2007.

The table below gives the most recent information regarding applications overdue for completion – at end of Quarter 4, 2022. (Reports are available on a Quarterly basis). 4,613 applications are overdue for completion with 90 of these on the grounds of there being exceptional circumstances as provided for in paragraph 10 of the regulations.

Applications overdue for completion – End of December 2022

	Overdue	<1 month	1 - 3 Months	>3 Months
CHO 1	191	27	34	130
CHO 2	77	22	18	37
CHO 3	260	41	60	159
CHO 4	665	73	76	516
CHO 5	208	24	36	148
CHO 6	271	55	55	161
CHO 7	1321	168	274	879
CHO 8	353	52	88	213
CHO 9	1267	142	213	912
Total	4613	604	854	3155

National Information Management System for the CDNTs (CDNTIMS)

Historically the number of children waitlisted for children’s disability services provided by Section 38 and Section 39 providers has not been available nationally. The establishment of Children’s Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) will facilitate the collection of this data. A National Management Information System for all 91 CDNTs is in development and when implemented, will provide current data on waiting lists and other details for all CDNTs. In the interim, manual data collection is on-going and will provide information to the local areas regarding the number of children waiting for each CDNT.


The data provided in the table below shows the number of children that are waiting for an initial contact with a CDNT in the 9 CHO Areas. This Dataset represents end of December 2022 activity reports. This is the most recent information available. Information is not collated on the average time on waiting lists.

Status report	CHO 1	CHO 2	CHO 3	CHO 4	CHO 5	CHO 6	CHO 7	CHO 8	CHO 9
No of children waiting 0-3 months for an initial contact @month end	481	132	294	181	179	120	185	361	87
No of children waiting 4-6 months for an initial contact @month end	315	231	209	164	217	120	258	498	119
No of children waiting 6-12 months for an initial contact @month end	341	1,275	316	272	395	266	672	367	354
No of children waiting over 12 months for an initial contact @month end	186	80	366	1488	1275	685	1551	1903	2302

Please also note that this is an interim dataset as we await the roll out of the National Information Management System and some individual CDNTs indicate that they do not have a system in place to capture this level of activity, therefore, there are gaps in data returns for some of the CHO Areas.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



Yvonne O'Neill
National Director
Community Operations