



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,  
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

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20<sup>th</sup> January, 2023

Deputy Ward  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 2168/23 – To ask the Minister for Health the number of children waiting for assessment of needs, psychology, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, and dietetics; the average waiting time for each of these services per CHO in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter**

- Mark Ward

Dear Deputy Ward,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (2168/23) 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. In light of these unprecedented challenges, together with the Government's guidance on social distancing, 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 therapy care services to all eligible service users. In 2021, there were 1.2 million patients seen by HSE community services.

Please find the attached appendix, which contains, in tabular form, details of the waiting lists in each CHO area, as of November 2022, which is the latest data available at this time.

Appendix 1 – Number of Patients waiting for treatment November, 2022

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

**Seán McArt**  
General Manager Primary Care  
National Community Operations