

25th July, 2023

Duncan Smith, TD
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 33708/23

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of children currently on the waiting list for hearing examinations in County Kerry by length of time waiting, in tabular form.”

Dear Deputy Smith,

The Health Service Executive have been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare audiology service is provided by a team of audiologists who assess clients with hearing difficulties and support them through each stage of their care pathway, from initial assessment to hearing aid fitting and follow-up care. Referrals to the service are received directly from GPs or from ENT Consultants.

As of 30 June 2023 the total number of children waiting for hearing assessment in Kerry is 559. Of those, 365 are new clients awaiting a hearing assessment and 194 are awaiting a review hearing assessment. The number of children waiting by wait time is outlined below;

New Paediatric Assessments waiting as of 30 June 2023			
Waiting Time	Age 0-4 yrs	Age 5-17 yrs	Total New Waiting
0-12 weeks	10	8	18
13-26 weeks	46	71	117
27-39 weeks	37	29	66
40-52 weeks	25	6	31
52 weeks +	121	12	133
TOTAL	239	126	365

Paediatric Reviews/Existing clients waiting as of 30 June 2023			
Waiting time	Age 0-4 years	Age 5-17 years	Total Reviews
0-12 weeks	22	26	48
13-26 weeks	24	24	48
27-39 weeks	14	11	25
40-52 weeks	27	3	30
52 weeks +	27	16	43
TOTAL	114	80	194

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare acknowledges the significant Audiology waiting lists. There has been significant challenges in relation to the recruitment of staff and this has attributed to longer waiting times in certain areas of

Cork and Kerry. I wish to ensure you that CKCH remains committed to meeting these demands and a validation exercise is underway which will lead to a waitlist initiative.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Priscilla Lynch', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Priscilla Lynch
Head of Service – Primary Care
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare