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29<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Mr. Denis Naughten TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 29105/23**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of children awaiting a psychology appointment in CHO5; the breakdown of the time they have been on the waiting list; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**PQ 29114/23**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of children awaiting an occupational therapy appointment in CHO5; the breakdown of the time they have been on the waiting list; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**PQ 29123/23**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of children awaiting a speech and language appointment in CHO5; the breakdown of the time they have been on the waiting list; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**PQ 29132/23**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of children awaiting a physiotherapy appointment in CHO5; the breakdown of the time they have been on the waiting list; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Naughten,

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

*I have examined the matter and the following composite response outlines the current position.*

Discipline	Area	Total no. of children on waiting list	0-4 mths	4-8 mths	8-12 mths	12-18 mths	18-24 mths	>24 mths
<b>*SLT</b>	<b>Carlow/Kilkenny</b>	1143	300	193	107	78	109	359
	<b>South Tipperary</b>	834	285	258	271	20	0	0
	<b>Waterford</b>	290	198	87	5	0	0	0
	<b>Wexford</b>	807	150	216	175	117	149	2
Discipline	Area	Total no. of children on waiting list	0-12 wks	12-26 wks	26-39 wks	39-52 wks	>52 wks	
<b>OT</b>	<b>Carlow/Kilkenny</b>	644	71	61	60	68	384	
	<b>South Tipperary</b>	221	92	68	28	23	10	
	<b>Waterford</b>	246	66	39	38	27	76	
	<b>Wexford</b>	682	69	95	48	56	414	
<b>Physiotherapy</b>	<b>Carlow/Kilkenny</b>	249	136	50	34	23	6	
	<b>South Tipperary</b>	73	68	4	1	0	0	
	<b>Waterford</b>	338	114	58	43	28	95	
	<b>Wexford</b>	108	87	18	3	0	0	
<b>Psychology</b>	<b>Carlow/Kilkenny</b>	250	51	67	51	28	53	
	<b>South Tipperary</b>	310	89	78	73	28	42	
	<b>Waterford</b>	585	73	155	139	77	141	
	<b>Wexford</b>	350	81	174	63	21	11	

\*Please note SLT waiting lists are reported in months whereas OT, Physiotherapy and Psychology waiting lists are reported in weeks.

#### **Commentary:**

Therapy waiting lists are influenced by both demand for service and capacity to deliver. Most therapies have evidenced an increase in demand for services and whilst progress has been made to address vacancies with enhanced recruitment campaigns, vacancies remain high as the supply of qualified healthcare talent does not meet the current or projected future demand. Other factors include social and environmental factors with our ever increasing aging population and the changing demographics leading to an increase in demand for our services.

Other therapy specific increases in service requirements include Physiotherapy services which has witnessed an increase in referral rates. In relation to Psychology services, an additional increase can be attributed due post-Covid anxiety symptoms and additional Ukrainian patients seeking refuge in the areas. To address these waiting lists, additional funding has been allocated as part of the Wait List Initiative to include out-sourcing of some services to private practice.

All therapies have implemented initiatives within their existing services i.e. increased use of group therapy where clinically appropriate, new pathways trialled to standardise patient journey for non-urgent/routine care patients, target of longest waiters and caseload review and management. All referrals continue to be clinically prioritised and those with the highest clinical need are reviewed first.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



**Anna Marie Lanigan**

**Head of Service-Primary Care/Assistant National Director  
South East Community Healthcare**