



Mr Alan Farrell TD,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

16<sup>th</sup> June 2023

**PQ 26320/23 – “To ask the Minister for Health the number of children awaiting their OT appointment through primary care in CHO9; and if he will make a statement on the matter” – Alan Farrell TD**

Dear Deputy Farrell,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you with information in the context of the above Parliamentary Question. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The number of children waiting for their Primary Care Occupational Therapy (OT) assessment in Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC) is 2,676.

CHO DNCC employ 20.3 Whole Time Equivalent Occupational Therapists who offer 185 appointments each week.

CHO DNCC has introduced a series of measures to reduce waiting times. These include conducting a waiting list validation exercise and access to advice clinics for parents to share ideas and strategies to help support the development of a specific skill area. Please see attached three flyers for the DNCC advice clinics for your information.

At present, the waiting times are:

<b>CHO DNCC Waiting Times</b>		
	<b>0-4 years</b>	<b>5-17 years</b>
<b>CHO DNCC</b>	125 weeks	151 weeks

While waiting for their appointment, parents and caregivers are offered a Parent Information webinar once a child has been accepted onto the waiting list. This provides ideas for the parent or guardian or caregiver on how to support the child’s development and provides signposting to other services. Parent education webinars which are part of the intervention process, they are available at the following link:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/ho/dublinnw/occupational-therapy-for-children/>

Additional resources have been approved as part of the ongoing implementation of Sláintecare and recruitment is on-going. It is anticipated when these additional roles are filled, they will have a positive impact on waiting times

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

Yours sincerely,

**Tom O’Brien**  
Head of Service Primary Care