



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

16th February 2024

PQ 46105/23 *“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth how many children are waiting on primary care occupational therapy 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 in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The number of children waiting for a Primary Care Occupational Therapy (OT) assessment in Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC) is 2,887.

The breakdown of these waiting lists are as follows:

Number of Children waiting on Occupational Therapy Appointment in CHO DNCC						
	0-12 weeks	12-26 weeks	26-39 weeks	39-52 weeks	52+ weeks	Total
Up to four years and 11 months of age	117	115	108	59	139	538
Five to 18 years of age	195	303	295	257	1,299	2,349

The Occupational Therapy team across CHO DNCC are progressing development of new clinical pathways and Paediatric Multidisciplinary teams meet regularly. When a parent or guardian receives an acceptance letter and is awaiting an appointment the letter includes information on access to advice clinic for parents or guardians of any children while on the waiting list. The letter will also include links to workshops for example sensory workshops. These can be accessed: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/lho/dublinnw/occupational-therapy-for-children/>. This provides ideas for the parent or guardian or caregiver on how to support the child’s development and provides signposting to other services.

In addition, Occupational Therapists have prioritised completing handwriting assessments and assistive technology reports for exams for current third and sixth year students to help ensure they receive supports prior to commencement of state exams.

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,

Michelle Forde

Michelle Forde
Head of Service Primary Care