



Ceannasaí na Seirbhísí Bunchúraim  
Cúram Sláinte Phobail, Iarthar, Ceanncheathrú N. Muire,  
Caisleán an Bharraigh, Co. Mhaigh Eo, F23 HP58.  
T. 094 9049064 / 094 9049069

**Head of Primary Care Services**  
Community Healthcare West, St. Mary's HQ, Castlebar, Co Mayo F23 HP59  
T. 094 9049064 / 094 9049069

April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Duncan Smith  
Leinster House  
Kildare St  
Dublin 2

**PQ 16098/24**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the number of children currently on the waiting list for hearing examinations in County Roscommon, by length of time waiting, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter”**

Dear Deputy Smith

The Health Service Executive has 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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position in Primary Care.

New referrals on children are triaged into 3 categories – P1 (known or strongly suspected hearing loss) to be seen within 4 weeks of date of referral; P2 (risk factors for hearing loss) to be seen within 8 weeks of date of referral and R (routine) to be seen within 12 weeks of referral.

Currently we are only able to provide appointments for new referrals triaged as P1 within the 4- 6 week time frame due to being severely short-staffed as well as due to lack of appropriate clinical space (we have only one clinical booth in Roscommon which has to be shared for adult and paediatric clinics during the week).

The following table provides the wait times for new and review paediatric clients:

Age Category	Total number on waitlist	Length of time waiting for longest waiter on list
<3.5yrs new clients	36	59 weeks (47 weeks overdue the 12 week KPI)
>3.5yrs new clients	127	60 weeks (48 weeks overdue the 12 week KPI)
<3.5yrs review clients	53	Within time frame for review. No one waiting over
>3.5yrs review clients	92	Within time frame for review. No one waiting over
<3.5yrs Hearing Aid Review	7	3 weeks overdue a 26 week review KPI
>3.5yrs Hearing Aid Review	63	23 weeks overdue a 52 week review KPI

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely



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**Mary Warde**  
**Head of Primary Care Services**  
**Galway, Mayo & Roscommon**