



18/04/2024

Deputy Sean Crowe,
Dail Eireann
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 16572/24

To ask the Minister for Health the number of children on the waiting list for audiology services from HSE community services in the Russell Centre, Tallaght; and the average waiting time for those services.

Dear Deputy Crowe,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for a response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Health Service Executive can confirm Community Audiology Services in the Russell Centre Tallaght serve as the main base for residents of South Dublin, Kildare & Wicklow with satellite services in Kildare Town & Naas.

The paediatric audiology service holds waiting lists for new children and review children and is further broken down by age category. The below table provides the information requested up to March 2024. The number of children waiting and the length of time to wait on an appointment is impacted by a deficit in current capacity of the service due to high demand levels and a number of staff vacancies at present, which cannot proceed to recruitment currently due to the recruitment pause within the HSE.

Age band	New Children Waiting	New children Waiting > 1 year	% New Children Waiting >1year	Longest new child waiting	Children awaiting review	Children over-waiting review	% Child reviews now Over-Waiting	% Hearing Aid children Over-waiting review
0-4 yrs	1067	449	42%	140 weeks (2.7 years)	421	320	76%	62%
5-17 yrs	2600	1243	48%	147 weeks (2.8 years)	1768	1079	61%	63%
Total	3667	1692	46%		2189	1399	64%	

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Kearney', written over a horizontal line.

Brian Kearney
Head of Primary Care
Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow Community Healthcare