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11th April 2025

Mr. John Paul O'Shea, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 15847/25

"To ask the Minister for Health the waiting lists for primary care speech and language therapy in Cork per community health network, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter".

Dear Deputy O'Shea,

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.

The Speech and Language Therapy Department sees children aged 0 to 18 years, who have speech or language difficulties as their primary need.

Children who may benefit from speech & language therapy may have some of the following needs:

- Speech: difficulty making speech sounds.
- Language: difficulty understanding and/or using words and sentences.
- Stammering or Stuttering: difficulty with fluent speech (getting stuck on words).
- Voice: hoarseness or loss of voice (talk to your G.P. about a referral to the ENT Department also).
- Social communication: difficulty with using language appropriately and following the rules of conversation.

The Number of People on Speech and Language Waiting List in Primary Care		
	Adults SLT Waiting List	Paediatrics SLT Waiting List
Network 4	101	Awaiting initial assessment: 272 Awaiting initial therapy : 175
Network 5	72	502
Network 6	66	751
Network 7	117	896
Network 8	9	Awaiting initial assessment:106 Awaiting initial therapy: 147 Awaiting further therapy: 177
Network 9	26	139
Network 10	38	383
Network 11	12	364
Network 12	34	411
Network 13	28	464
Network 14	7	231

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Seirbhís sláinte a thógáil a bhfuil ár bpobal bródúil aisti
Building a health service our community is proud of



Yours sincerely,

Mari O'Donovan
Interim Head of Service - Primary Care,
HSE South West