

**Head of Service Primary Care**

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Ms Grace Boland TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Email: grace.boland@oireachtas.ie

PQ 5249/25 - "To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth for a breakdown of the waiting lists of children awaiting their occupational therapy assessment in CH09, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter" – Grace Boland TD

Dear Deputy Boland,

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.

Within the HSE Integrated Health Area Dublin North County and Dublin North City & West there are 4530 children waiting for their Primary Care Occupational Therapy appointment. The breakdown is as follows:

Integrated Health Areas of Dublin North County and Dublin North City & West Number of Children waiting for Primary Care Occupational Therapy Appointments						
	0-12 weeks	12-26 weeks	26-39 weeks	39-52 weeks	52+ weeks	Total
Up to four years and 11 months of age	159	166	108	80	299	812
Five to 18 years of age	357	288	365	330	2378	3718

Integrated Health Areas of Dublin North County and Dublin North City & West Occupational Therapy teams are progressing development of new clinical pathways. 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 also include links to workshops for example sensory which may be accessed via:

<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 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 clarifies your query.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Kirwan
Acting Head of Service Primary Care
HSE Integrated Health Areas of Dublin North County and
Dublin North City & West