



Oifig an Stiúrthoir Cúnta,
Cúram Priomhúil Rochtain agus Comhthathú,

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.
D08 W2A8.

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9th July 2025

Deputy Clarke,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 36706/25 To ask the Minister for Health the average waiting time for children aged 2-6 to access speech and language therapy services in each health region; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

- Sorca Clarke

Dear Deputy Clarke,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (36706/25) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE is committed to delivering efficient high-quality services to all eligible service users. In 2024, there were 171,317 patients seen by HSE Primary Care Speech and Language Therapy services. Each Health Region is focused on improving access to care in order to reduce waiting times for patients in the context of resources available.

The HSE national waiting list data is collated on a monthly basis by children's age ranges of 0 -4yrs 11 months and 5 – 17 yrs 11months. Due to the current data systems this does not provide average waiting times for Speech and Language Therapy services. I have, however, attached the below appendix, which contains, in tabular form, details of the HSE Children's Primary Care Speech and Language Therapy waiting list for each region as of May 2025 which is the latest data available at this time.

Appendix 1 – Children's Primary Care Speech and Language Therapy List May 2025

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Seán McArt

General Manager
Primary Care Access & Integration

Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Initial Assessment - May 2025							
RHA	0 to 4 Mths	4 months & 1 day - 8 months	8 months & 1 day - 12 months	12 months & 1 day - 18 months	18 months & 1 day to 24 months	>24 months	TOTAL
HSE Dublin & Midlands	1,326	1,191	998	1,494	304	34	5,347
HSE Dublin & North East	1085	1148	1014	1585	982	612	6,426
HSE Dublin & South East	1000	820	646	482	178	21	3,147
HSE Mid-West	475	544	442	476	120	24	2,081
HSE South West	1098	452	334	53	0	0	1,937
HSE West & North West	1,015	444	152	121	5	0	1,737
National Total	5,999	4,599	3,586	4,211	1,589	691	20,675

Note: May data not returned for Carlow Kilkenny

Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Initial Therapy - May 2025							
RHA	0 to 4 Mths	4 months & 1 day - 8 months	8 months & 1 day - 12 months	12 months & 1 day - 18 months	18 months & 1 day to 24 months	>24 months	TOTAL
HSE Dublin & Midlands	192	111	115	147	59	59	683
HSE Dublin & North East	445	352	316	482	330	228	2,153
HSE Dublin & South East	212	152	156	98	42	4	664
HSE Mid-West	111	97	91	56	31	4	390
HSE South West	499	395	310	325	228	4	1,761
HSE West & North West	406	237	137	43	25	2	850
National Total	1,865	1,344	1,125	1,151	715	301	6,501

Note: May data not returned for Carlow Kilkenny

Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Further Therapy - May 2025							
RHA	0 to 4 Mths	4 months & 1 day - 8 months	8 months & 1 day - 12 months	12 months & 1 day - 18 months	18 months & 1 day to 24 months	>24 months	TOTAL
HSE Dublin & Midlands	428	364	345	269	88	7	1,501
HSE Dublin & North East	474	373	447	526	526	322	2,668
HSE Dublin & South East	168	261	295	130	39	13	906
HSE Mid-West	350	263	158	201	81	22	1,075
HSE South West	933	749	509	415	286	5	2,897
HSE West & North West	1,281	399	220	63	19	0	1,982
National Total	3,634	2,409	1,974	1,604	1,039	369	11,029

Note: May data not returned for Carlow Kilkenny (HSE Dublin & South East)