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29th July, 2025

Mr. Thomas Gould., T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 38860/25**

**"To ask the Minister for Health to outline the number of people awaiting a speech and language therapy appointment in each of the local health offices in Cork; the number who have been waiting less than three months; three to six months; six to 12 months; more than 12 months; broken down in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter."**

Dear Deputy Gould,

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 table below outlines the number waiting for a Speech and Language therapy appointments in North Cork, North Lee, South Lee and West Cork. We have broken the figures down into Initial Assessment, Initial Therapy and Further Therapy. The breakdown as requested was not available.

Speech and Language Therapy - Total Number of patients awaiting Initial Assessment - June 2025								
HSE South West		0 to 4 months	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
	North Cork	253	233	134	33	3	0	656
	North Lee	369	283	153	71	0	0	876
	South Lee	329	8	0	0	0	0	337
	West Cork	112	2	0	0	0	0	114
	<b>Total</b>	1063	526	287	104	3	0	1,983

Speech and Language Therapy - Total Number of patients awaiting Initial Therapy - June 2025								
HSE South West		0 to 4 months	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
	North Cork	47	42	79	95	36	4	303
	North Lee	112	137	92	190	190	0	721
	South Lee	214	171	106	36	0	0	527
	West Cork	49	20	12	0	0	0	81
	<b>Total</b>	422	370	289	321	226	4	1,632

Speech and Language Therapy - Total Number of patients awaiting Further Therapy - June 2025								
HSE South West		0 to 4 months	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
	North Cork	36	41	46	105	66	6	300
	North Lee	164	198	201	308	222	0	1,093
	South Lee	272	261	174	46	0	0	753
	West Cork	87	54	15	0	0	0	156
	<b>Total</b>	559	554	436	459	288	6	2,302

**Seirbhís sláinte a thógáil a bhfuil ár bpobal bródúil aisti**  
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I acknowledge that the above wait times for speech and language services are less than desirable, and I apologise for same. A number of factors lead wait times to longer wait times, and these include a growth in demand for services and also vacant posts (which we are recruiting to fill). Reducing waiting times is a priority for the service, and we are actively working on strategies which include resource allocation; validation of waiting lists; streamlining process and optimising existing workloads, as well as recruitment to vacant/replacement posts. All of these efforts and increased resources are directed at reducing waiting times.

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

Yours sincerely,

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**Sarah McAleer**  
**Acting Head of Service - Primary Care,**  
**HSE South West**