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29th July, 2025

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

PQ ref 38862/25

"To ask the Minister for Health to outline the number of people awaiting a first 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.

HSE South West Primary Care provide the following services: Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Psychology, Dietetics, Podiatry, Audiology, Ophthalmology and Speech and Language Therapy. The tables below outline the number of people awaiting an initial assessment in Cork Primary Care as of 30th June 2025.

Physiotherapy - No of Patients awaiting Assessment - June 2025							
HSE South West		0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks - ≤ 26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52	> 52 weeks	Total
	North Cork	462	318	216	137	343	1476
	North Lee	564	499	344	427	1329	3163
	South Lee	*0	*0	*0	*0	*0	*0
	West Cork	385	159	76	16	6	642
	Total	1,411	976	636	580	1,678	5,281

Occupational Therapy - Number of Patients Awaiting First Time Assessment June 2025							
HSE South West		0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks - ≤ 26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52	> 52 weeks	Total
	North Cork	365	226	55	126	546	1318
	North Lee	451	452	286	178	485	1852
	South Lee	624	606	349	226	569	2374
	West Cork	171	157	159	97	150	734
	Total	1,611	1,441	849	627	1,750	6,278

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	Psychology - Number of Patients waiting for treatment June 2025						
HSE South West		0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks - ≤ 26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52	> 52 weeks	Total
	North Cork	147	85	98	85	522	937
	North Lee	183	173	144	132	1631	2263
	South Lee	166	162	167	153	1634	2282
	West Cork	63	43	38	38	361	543
	Total	559	463	447	408	4148	6025

	Dietetics - No of Patients waiting for treatment - June 2025						
HSE South West		0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks - ≤ 26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52	> 52 weeks	Total
	North Cork	196	132	73	77	111	589
	North Lee	339	200	106	156	282	1083
	South Lee	370	42	4	0	0	416
	West Cork	136	12	0	0	0	148
	Total	1,041	386	183	233	393	2,236

	Podiatry - No of Patients waiting for treatment - June 2025						
HSE South West		0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks - ≤ 26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52	> 52 weeks	Total
	North Cork	28	26	31	33	305	423
	North Lee	80	64	42	72	255	513
	South Lee	*0	*0	*0	*0	*0	*0
	West Cork	4	4	2	7	40	57
	Total	112	94	75	112	600	993

	Audiology - No of Patients waiting for treatment - June 2025						
HSE South West		0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks - ≤ 26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52	> 52 weeks	Total
	North Cork	*0	*0	*0	*0	*0	*0
	North Lee	*0	*0	*0	*0	*0	*0
	South Lee	883	472	356	340	697	2748
	West Cork	*0	*0	*0	*0	*0	*0
	Total	883	472	356	340	697	2,748



	Ophthalmology - No of Patients waiting for treatment - June 2025						
		0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks - ≤ 26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52	> 52 weeks	Total
HSE South West	North Cork	74	113	13	6	5	211
	North Lee	476	179	137	43	43	878
	South Lee	*0	*0	*0	*0	*0	*0
	West Cork	55	53	17	4	4	133
	Total	605	345	167	53	52	1222

	Speech and Language Therapy - Total Number of patients awaiting Initial Assessment - June 2025							
		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
HSE South West	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
	Total	1063	526	287	104	3	0	1983

*Figures provided are based on BIU held data, some of which are collated regionally and returned in an amalgamated fashion.

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,

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