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Páirc Ghnó agus Teicneolaíochta,
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27th March 2025.

Mr. Pa Daly, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 11562/25.

"To ask the Minister for Health the number of clinical sessions typically offered to children and adolescents attending the CHO4 primary care speech and language therapy services; and if these clients are placed on another waiting list following discharge in the event that they require ongoing support".

Dear Deputy Daly,

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.

A block of six sessions (once weekly) are typically offered to children and adolescents attending the CHO4 primary care speech and language therapy services. If children do not require further input, they are discharged. In the event that they require ongoing support, they are not discharged and are waitlisted for further therapy.

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

Yours sincerely,

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