



01<sup>st</sup> April, 2025

Deputy Sorca Clarke  
Leinster House  
Kildare St.  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ reference PQ 13622/25 – Parliamentary Question from Deputy Sorca Clarke requesting a breakdown of the current waiting times for appointments with the Speech and Language Therapist service, following initial assessment in counties Longford and Westmeath.**

Dear Deputy Clarke,

Thank you for your query. The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you recently submitted. In preparing this response your Parliamentary Question has been discussed with the relevant Managers. I have examined the matter and outline the position as follows.

#### **CHN 7 – East Westmeath**

Paediatric – When the initial assessment is attended, therapy commences also as the child becomes an active client of the Speech and Language Therapy service.

Adult – There is no wait time following initial assessment for P1's as an appointment is offered at that stage. For P2's, there may be a wait of up to 3 months for an appointment following the initial assessment but often this is at the request of the service user who may not be well enough to engage at that time.

#### **CHN 8 – Longford & Central Westmeath**

Paediatric – When clients are opened for an initial assessment, they generally receive their next appointment within a targeted time of 2 weeks/10 working days.

Adult – When clients are opened for an initial assessment, they generally receive their next appointment within a targeted time of 2 weeks/10 working days or as clinically indicated by the clinician.

#### **CHN 9 – West Westmeath & Northwest Offaly**

Paediatric – There is no wait time following initial assessment as the client becomes active and they then receive a timely intervention resulting in no established wait time.

Adult - There is no wait time following initial assessment as the client becomes active and they then receive a timely intervention resulting in no established wait time.



I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

---

Joseph Ruane  
Head of Primary Care Services  
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation