



Oifig an Stiúrthoir Cúnta,
Cúram Priomhúil Rochtain agus Comhthathú,
Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.
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26th May 2025

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

PQ 26284/25 To ask the Minister for Health if the current expected waiting time for service users of speech and language therapy is in the region of 14-months, what actions are being taken to address this extremely long waiting time, specifically in cases where primary school students urgently need to avail of services

-Robert Troy

Dear Deputy Troy,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (26284/25) which you submitted to the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth 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 Speech and Language Therapy services.

The HSE recognises the need to address waiting lists, and this is reflected in our commitment to developing the provision of Community Services. Community based care is currently undergoing substantial reform in line with Sláintecare. This involves significant re-structuring in how services are delivered to ensure that care is provided in an equitable, efficient and integrated way through newly established Community Healthcare Networks and Healthcare Regions. This changes the way that our services are delivered.

Each of the newly formed HSE Health Regions has its own budget, leadership team and responsibility for local decision-making and continue to work towards the Sláintecare objectives. The HSE Health Regions and each national service has been provided with a specified number of Whole Time Equivalents (WTE) and can replace, recruit and prioritise staff within that approved number. This gives Health Regions control to focus resources where there is the greatest need. Services in the community also prioritise the provision of care for those patients identified as having the greatest needs and the highest risk.

The HSE continues to recruit Health and Social Care Professionals (HSCP) such as Speech and Language Therapists with a range of national, regional and bespoke competitions advertised on its website over the last number of months. Approved vacancies will be filled from these competitions. It should be noted that the recruitment of all Health and Social Care Professionals (HSCP) including Speech and Language Therapists can be challenging with shortages both in Ireland and throughout the UK.



Please find the attached appendix, which contains, in tabular form, details of the Primary Care Children's Speech and Language Therapy waiting list for each LHO area, as of March 2025 which is the latest data available at this time.

Appendix 1 – Children's Primary Care Speech and Language Therapy Waiting List March 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 - March 2025								
RHA	Former LHO	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	Dublin South City	54	47	5	0	0	0	106
	Dublin South West	93	144	148	210	49	18	662
	Dublin West	140	132	154	265	72	0	763
	Kildare West Wicklow	394	352	372	421	118	29	1,686
	Laois Offaly	219	532	91	153	0	0	995
	Longford Westmeath	300	207	217	121	0	0	845
	HSE Dublin & Midlands	1200	1414	987	1170	239	47	5,057
HSE Dublin & North East	Cavan Monaghan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Dublin North	250	348	248	317	157	11	1,331
	Dublin North Central	84	91	33	4	0	0	212
	Dublin North West	111	219	253	414	299	214	1,510
	Louth	223	199	206	324	128	22	1,102
	Meath	128	134	121	144	131	169	827
	HSE Dublin & North East	796	991	861	1203	715	416	4,982
HSE Dublin & South East	Dublin South East	98	88	98	24	0	0	308
	Dun Laoghaire	50	88	54	2	0	0	194
	South Tipperary	186	88	23	20	0	0	317
	Waterford	165	149	133	102	5	9	563
	Wexford	267	273	256	295	104	16	1,211
	Wicklow	105	138	95	39	0	0	377
	HSE Dublin & South East	871	824	659	482	109	25	2,970
HSE Mid-West	Clare	150	197	140	21	0	0	508
	Limerick	136	130	180	280	116	13	855
	North Tipperary East Limerick	192	173	216	68	4	0	653
	HSE Mid-West	478	500	536	369	120	13	2,016
HSE South West	Kerry	120	0	0	0	0	0	120
	North Cork	146	156	107	9	0	0	418
	North Lee	256	258	151	26	0	0	691
	South Lee	303	4	0	0	0	0	307
	West Cork	75	2	0	0	0	0	77
	HSE South West	900	420	258	35	0	0	1,613
HSE West & North West	Donegal	161	75	10	0	0	0	246
	Galway	390	242	71	1	0	0	704
	Mayo	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
	Roscommon	47	0	0	0	0	0	47
	Sligo Leitrim	205	143	115	113	0	0	576
	HSE West & North West	807	460	196	114	0	0	1,577
National Total		5,052	4,609	3,497	3,373	1,183	501	18,215

Note: March 2025 data not returned for Cavan Monaghan and Carlow Kilkenny

Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Initial Therapy - March 2025								
RHA	Former LHO	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	Dublin South City	22	29	39	25	13	17	145
	Dublin South West	39	39	32	18	2	3	133
	Dublin West	24	15	40	15	5	0	99
	Kildare West Wicklow	70	12	2	0	5	0	89
	Laois Offaly	2	1	17	19	89	40	168
	Longford Westmeath	49	41	0	0	0	0	90
	HSE Dublin & Midlands	206	137	130	77	114	60	724
HSE Dublin & North East	Cavan Monaghan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Dublin North	230	235	184	271	190	113	1,223
	Dublin North Central	124	82	57	44	69	42	418
	Dublin North West	66	110	141	89	96	63	565
	Louth	17	0	0	0	0	0	17
	Meath	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	HSE Dublin & North East	437	427	382	404	355	218	2,223
HSE Dublin & South East	Dublin South East	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Dun Laoghaire	66	45	26	8	2	0	147
	South Tipperary	77	56	44	40	36	0	253
	Waterford	3	19	14	20	7	0	63
	Wexford	60	64	58	45	26	5	258
	Wicklow	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
	HSE Dublin & South East	206	185	143	113	71	5	723
HSE Mid-West	Clare	79	35	50	36	39	4	243
	Limerick	18	18	18	16	4	1	75
	North Tipperary East Limerick	34	25	6	8	0	0	73
	HSE Mid-West	131	78	74	60	43	5	391
HSE South West	Kerry	109	36	0	0	0	0	145
	North Cork	27	76	75	98	57	1	334
	North Lee	83	102	113	164	156	0	618
	South Lee	183	181	115	21	0	0	500
	West Cork	51	38	7	0	0	0	96
	HSE South West	453	433	310	283	213	1	1,693
HSE West & North West	Donegal	192	21	17	1	0	0	231
	Galway	172	80	74	17	0	1	344
	Mayo	149	94	63	0	0	0	306
	Roscommon	108	69	41	57	8	3	286
	Sligo Leitrim	19	4	0	1	0	0	24
	HSE West & North West	640	268	195	76	8	4	1,191
National Total		2,073	1,528	1,234	1,013	804	293	6,945

Note: March 2025 data not returned for Cavan Monaghan and Carlow Kilkenny

Speech and Language Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Further Therapy - March 2025								
RHA	Former LHO	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	Dublin South City	57	130	76	67	44	21	395
	Dublin South West	117	141	180	192	52	10	692
	Dublin West	49	93	116	75	18	0	351
	Kildare West Wicklow	100	17	7	4	7	3	138
	Laois Offaly	6	1	16	1	1	0	25
	Longford Westmeath	87	40	0	0	0	0	127
	HSE Dublin & Midlands	416	422	395	339	122	34	1,728
HSE Dublin & North East	Cavan Monaghan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Dublin North	241	272	255	343	272	137	1,520
	Dublin North Central	79	79	55	86	71	24	394
	Dublin North West	62	101	116	130	155	116	680
	Louth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Meath	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	HSE Dublin & North East	382	452	426	559	498	277	2,594
HSE Dublin & South East	Dublin South East	21	0	0	0	0	0	21
	Dun Laoghaire	64	66	37	15	1	0	183
	South Tipperary	0	91	136	0	0	0	227
	Waterford	0	0	3	0	3	1	7
	Wexford	50	95	97	101	23	7	373
	Wicklow	12	16	7	0	0	0	35
	HSE Dublin & South East	147	268	280	116	27	8	846
HSE Mid-West	Clare	127	83	70	45	22	10	357
	Limerick	125	101	139	90	23	17	495
	North Tipperary East Limerick	104	55	18	18	20	1	216
	HSE Mid-West	356	239	227	153	65	28	1,068
HSE South West	Kerry	348	231	70	6	0	0	655
	North Cork	38	38	79	97	36	3	291
	North Lee	199	210	184	259	193	0	1,045
	South Lee	250	255	179	47	0	0	731
	West Cork	86	50	18	0	0	0	154
	HSE South West	921	784	530	409	229	3	2,876
HSE West & North West	Donegal	63	21	0	0	0	0	84
	Galway	310	286	80	53	4	3	736
	Mayo	262	122	50	2	0	0	436
	Roscommon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sligo Leitrim	149	122	61	27	10	0	369
	HSE West & North West	784	551	191	82	14	3	1,625
National Total		3,006	2,716	2,049	1,658	955	353	10,737

Note: March 2025 data not returned for Cavan Monaghan and Carlow Kilkenny