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FSS Meán Iarthair

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31st October 2025

Deputy Richard O'Donoghue
Charleville Road
Kilmallock
Co. Limerick

Re: PQ 50452/25 - "To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department has in place a strategy to cut the waiting lists for Speech & Language Therapy assessments (Limerick County); and if she will make a statement on the matter".

Dear Deputy O'Donoghue,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your parliamentary question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

I can advise that Primary Care Speech & Language Therapy Services are delivered through Primary Care Teams across Limerick County. The Primary Care Teams come under the remit of the following Community Healthcare Networks:

- East Limerick & Ballina
- South Limerick
- West Limerick

In order to respond to the issues raised in your representation, I engaged with the Network Managers and the Speech & Language Therapy Managers with responsibility for these geographical areas to get their input in this regard. I wish to advise you of the following:

- The Network Manager meets with the SLT Manager and the Speech & Language Therapists (SLTs) within their network area on a quarterly basis. The waiting lists are reviewed and validated on regular basis to ensure equity of access for service users and the most efficient use of the resources available to the service.
- The Network Managers and the SLT Managers meet regularly to review productivity, referral rates, staffing and caseload management across each of the network areas.
- Attendance policies are being reviewed to ensure a standard approach to service user attendance (e.g. DNAs) and to maximise the most efficient use of clinical time.
- There is close collaboration between the Network Managers and the Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNT) in each of the network areas to ensure a co-ordinated approach to service delivery.
- Speech & Language Therapists provide universal advice to parents/guardians at the time of referral, supporting the development of children's speech, language and communication skills. The SLTs also deliver ongoing education and training to Pre-School and Primary School staff particularly through the Early Talkboost and Talkboost KS1 & KS2 Programmes. In addition to 1:1 interventions, SLTs offer group sessions for children where appropriate.



Further details are awaited in relation to the Primary Care Therapies Waiting List Proposal referenced in a letter dated 15th September 2025, from the Minister of Health to Mr. Gloster, CEO. It can be anticipated that any targeted initiatives introduced under this proposal will have a positive impact on the waiting lists for all therapies including Speech & Language Therapy.

I trust the above information addresses the issues raised in your representation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Carmel McLaughlin', is written over a horizontal line.

Carmel McLaughlin
General Manager
Primary Care