



Oifig an Bhainisteoir Limistéar Sláinte
Comhtháite - Lár na Tíre

Oifig Cheantair, Bóthar Ardáin, An Tulach
Mhór, Co. Uíbh Fhailí, R35 TY28

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30th October, 2025

Mr. Micheál Carrigy T.D.,
Leinster House
Kildare St.
Dublin 2

Re: Parliamentary Question - 56599/25

To ask the Minister for Health the number of people waiting for physiotherapy at St. Joseph's Care Centre, Longford, by waiting-time bands, less than four weeks; four to 12; 12-26; 26-52, greater than 52 weeks, and by clinical priority (urgent/soon/routine); and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Carrigy,

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. I have examined the matter and outline the position as follows.

The physiotherapy outpatient department at St. Joseph's Care centre provides a primary care outpatient service to the population living in Longford and Central Westmeath. The population of this region is 49,859.

All persons living in within the Longford and Central Westmeath community healthcare network can be referred to the physiotherapy primary care service through a number of sources e.g., Public Health Nursing, Health & Social Care Professional staff, GP, Consultant, Acute hospital or self-referral. The information received on the referral will be screened by an experienced physiotherapist and using our regional prioritisation PPPG, the referral will be wait listed accordingly.

All Priority 1 referrals are seen within a target time of 3 weeks as per regional PPPG's. However, some referrals may be scheduled outside of 3 weeks for a variety of reasons including: post-operative guidelines or consultant specific instructions. Priority 2 referrals are waitlisted chronologically.

On average, 2300 referrals are received into this outpatient service annually.

On 30th September 2025, there were 965 people waiting for an initial assessment at the Physiotherapy outpatient department at St Joseph's Care Centre.



Breakdown of the waiting list:

- **Less than 4 weeks:** 136 (40 priority referrals are categorised as Clinical Priority 1, 96 referrals are categorised as Clinical Priority 2)
- **4-12 weeks:** 156 (4 referrals are categorised as Clinical Priority 1, 152 referrals are categorised as Clinical Priority 2)
- **12-26 weeks:** 222 (All 222 referrals are categorised as Clinical Priority 2)
- **26-52 weeks:** 392 (All 392 referrals are categorised as Clinical Priority 2)
- **Greater than 52 weeks:** 59 (All 59 referrals are categorised as Clinical Priority 2)

The wait times are dependent on referral rates, referral categorisation and resources available to complete assessment and interventions.

Unfortunately, 23% of the WTE staffing assigned to cover the Physiotherapy OPD service is currently vacant and outside the control of the service (due to 1.0 WTE resignation and 1.0 WTE Maternity Leave in September 2025).

In addition, a 1.0 WTE Staff grade Physiotherapist post was lost due to the Pay & Numbers strategy. This is having a challenging impact on services.

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,

Joe Campbell
Interim - Integrated Healthcare Area Manager, Midlands
Dublin and Midlands Regional Area