



6th July 2021

Mr Paul McAuliffe, TD
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Head of Service for Disability

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Re: PQ ref 25036/21 - Wait time in disability care for a Speech and Language

'To ask the Minister for Health the wait time in disability care for a Speech and Language Therapist in CHO9;
and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy McAuliffe,

In the first instance I would like to apologise for the delay in responding due to the cyber-attack.

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Waiting times for children with a disability that require access to a speech and language therapist within a disability team in Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC) are as follows:

- Early Intervention Team (EIT) is currently 38 months
- School Aged Disability Team St Michael's House (SMH) is approximately 30 months
- School Aged Disability Team Central Remedial Clinic (CRC) is approximately 24 months

Children's Disability Services are being reconfigured at national and local level throughout the HSE under the Progressing Disability Services programme. We are working in partnership with children's disability service providers in this CHO and we are finalising the process of establishing Children's Disability Network Teams to support children with complex needs. These Teams, when fully established and operational in Q3 2021, will provide inter-disciplinary support through a family-centred approach. It is anticipated this will significantly impact waiting list times.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Ms Jillian Connolly
Acting Head of Service for Disability