

13th February, 2024

Mr. Thomas Gould, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 54822/23

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of children in Cork currently awaiting an appointment for audiology by waiting time, in tabular form.”

Dear Deputy Gould,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare audiology service is provided by a team of audiologists who assess clients with hearing difficulties and support them through each stage of their care pathway, from initial assessment to hearing aid fitting and follow-up care. Referrals to the service are received directly from GPs or from ENT Consultants.

As of December 2023 the total number of children awaiting a first episode of care with HSE Cork Audiology, is 1617. Of those, 1148 are clients between ages 0 and 4yrs and 987 are clients between ages 5 and 17yrs. The number of children waiting by wait time is provided below in tabular form;

New Paediatric Assessments waiting as of December 2023			
	0-4 yrs	5-17 yrs	Total
0-12 weeks	272	187	459
13-26 weeks	279	296	575
27-39 weeks	214	194	408
40-52 weeks	131	110	241
52 weeks +	252	200	452
TOTAL	1148	987	1617

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Priscilla Lynch
Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare