



May 1st, 2024

Claire Kerrane
 Sinn Féin TD for Galway/Roscommon
 Bridge Street
 Ballinasloe
 Co Galway

RE:PQ 17654/24
“To ask the Minister for Health of children on waiting lists for occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, psychology and the waiting times under primary care in counties Roscommon and Galway; and if he will make a statement on the matter”

Dear Deputy Kerrane

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position in Primary Care.

I refer to the Parliamentary Question asking for the number of children on waiting lists for occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, psychology and the waiting times under primary care in counties Roscommon and Galway. This reply provides the requested information relating to Galway.

Speech and Language Therapy - Galway						
Children aged 0 - 17.11 years	0-4 months	4-8 months	8-12 months	12-18 months	18-24 months	Totals
Waiting Initial Assessment	439	334	148	11	0	932
Waiting Initial Therapy	116	125	48	2	2	293
Waiting Further Therapy	247	184	141	48	7	627

Primary Care Child Psychology - Galway			
Numbers Waiting	AGE 0-4 years	AGE 5-18 years	Total
As of March 2024	73	865	938

Please Note: For Galway, South Roscommon (Community Healthcare Networks 4-8), waiting times for PC Child and Family Psychology vary significantly as a function of referral volume, population to staff ratio and unfilled posts. Across the 5 networks, waiting times vary from 1-4 years for individual intervention.

Priority referrals are seen sooner. Where families are deemed suitable and are amenable to and available for group-based interventions, waiting times are shorter for these interventions across all networks.

Occupational Therapy - Galway			
Waiting Times	0-4yrs	5-17yrs	Total
0 ≤ 12 weeks	5	13	18
> 12weeks but ≤ 26weeks:	1	14	15
> 26weeks but ≤ 39weeks:	8	64	72
>39weeks but ≤ 52weeks:	9	95	104
> 52weeks +	25	448	473
TOTAL	48	634	682
<p>Average waiting times - shown in weeks. Due to diverse levels of intervention required for each individual child seen by the OT service the provided average waiting time is a guideline time only and should be interpreted and shared with caution. The attached average times is for Co. Galway average waiting times may vary significantly according to individual networks. Waiting times can be impacted considerably due to active caseload complexity and staffing levels. The upcoming recruitment campaign for staff grade OT may significantly impact our current staffing levels and skills as agency staff move to permanent roles elsewhere in the HSE.</p>			
	28	56	Weeks

Occupational Therapy, Roscommon	Age Category	0-4	5-17	TOTALS
	the number waiting 0 ≤ 12 weeks	8	32	40
	the number waiting >12weeks ≤26 weeks	4	24	28
	the number waiting >26weeks ≤39 weeks	6	41	47
	the number waiting >39 weeks ≤52 weeks	8	35	43
	the number waiting > 52 weeks +	8	29	37
	Total Check	34	161	195
	<i>Longest wait time for an Children awaiting a first appointment on the assessment waiting list in County Roscommon to Include Monkland which is part of</i>	82	89	

	Network 8 (shown in number of weeks)			
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SLT Paediatrics, Roscommon		0-4 mo	4-8mo	8-12mo	12-18mo	18mo-2yrs	2yrs +
	Waiting List Initial Assessment	25	0	0	0	0	0
	Waiting List Initial Therapy	130	129	56	95	19	6
	Waiting List for Further Therapy	38	28	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL NUMBERS ON WAITLISTS	193	157	56	95	19	6

Roscommon Primary Care Child Psychology	172 children on the waiting list in the Roscommon area with the longest waiting time noted as 128 weeks
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I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely



Mary Warde
Head of Primary Care Services
Galway, Mayo & Roscommon