



Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Oibrioichtaí
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí Sláinte
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4th June 2024

Mr. Richard Bruton, TD
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

By email to: richard.bruton@oireachtas.ie

Ref: PQ 4402/24

To ask the Minister for Health the number of physiotherapists catering to the needs of public patients; whether waiting lists are maintained to measure the extent to which demand is being met by the existing throughput of caseload of these practitioners; if he has considered extending the NTPF system to those waiting for physiotherapy; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Bruton,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for response. I apologise for the delay in responding and any inconvenience caused.

Employment levels at the end of March 2024, show there were 148,293 WTE (equating to 166,997 personnel) directly employed in the provision of Health & Social Care Services by the HSE and Section 38 hospitals & agencies and of which 2,395 WTE (2,735 personnel) were physiotherapists. This physiotherapist figure represents a +544 WTE increase (+29.4%) over December 2019. HSE employment figures are published [here](#).

The table below sets out information regarding physiotherapists in the health service.

Service	Personnel	WTE
Acute Services Total	1,453	1,302
Community Services		
Community Health & Wellbeing	≤5	≤5
Mental Health	≤5	≤5
Primary Care	865	731
Disabilities	240	205
Older People	174	155
Community Services Total	1,282	1,093
Overall Total	2,735	2,395

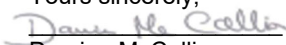
In respect of Community Physiotherapy Services, cases are graded on a Priority Basis from Priority one to four based on the presenting condition. Physiotherapy Therapy managers allocate the staff resource available to them to address the demand / workload in their area of responsibility on the basis of the assessed priority need of the patient. Demand exceeds supply of physiotherapy services in community services. Therapy services are measured by the % of patients waiting over 52 weeks for a service. These waiting times are published on a monthly basis on the HSE website as part of the KPI performance.

Physiotherapy services in the acute hospitals provide care to both inpatients and out-patients. Referrals for out-patient care are triaged as urgent or routine based on referral information. Service users are provided with an out-patient appointment based on triage status.

The National Treatment Purchase Fund provides is a corporate body with functions and responsibilities as set out under Statutory Instrument 179 - National Treatment Purchase Fund (Establishment) Order, 2004 and the Nursing Homes Support Scheme Act (2009) under the direction of the Minister for Health. It currently provides services to service users on acute hospital waiting lists. Any changes to the provision of physiotherapy services would require a legislative change so is therefore a matter for the Minister for Health.

I trust that this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,


Damien McCallion
Chief Operations Officer