

7th August 2024

Holly Cairns, T.D.,
 Dáil Éireann,
 Dublin 2

PQ ref 31203/24

"To ask the Minister for Health the number and exact wait times of children and adolescents waiting less than 12 months and in excess of 12 months for the north Lee, south Lee, north Cork, west Cork and Kerry primary care occupational therapy services; and the number of clients waiting two years, three years, four years, and so on, in tabular form."

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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.

The Paediatric Occupational Therapy Department helps children and young people aged 0-18 years who are experiencing difficulty in performing the daily activities expected of them. This may include any of the areas of self-care, dressing, toileting, feeding; movement and coordination such as balance skills, ball skills, hand-eye coordination; sensory processing; handwriting and planning and organising skills at home or school. Referrals are accepted from parents, guardians, teachers, or other professionals working with the child.

Below is a table outlining the numbers on the waiting list:

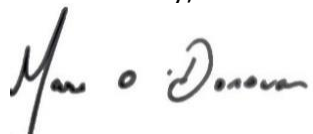
	North Lee	South Lee	North Cork	West Cork	Kerry
Less than 12 months	947	658	237	218	479
1 - 2 years	411	132	251	11	130
2 - 3 years	0	4	52	0	19

Priority 1 patients are seen within 3 to 6 months and all other children are seen within 30 months. We are working towards reducing these timelines to improve our patient's experience.

We regret that patients have to wait any length of time for services, in accordance with the available resources we endeavour to see patients as quickly as possible and ensure that clinical prioritisation is adhered too. In order to assist with the resource deficits and reduce the administrative burden on clinicians we are piloting a number of technology initiatives to supports the increase of available clinical time, it is intended to scale up these supports to all disciplines.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mari O'Donovan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a distinct 'O'.

Mari O'Donovan
Acting Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare