



Head of Service Primary Care

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29th October 2024

Mr Alan Farrell TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Email: Alan.Farrell@oireachtas.ie

PQ 42948/24 – *“To ask the Minister for Health the number of children waiting for primary care occupational therapy in CH09; and if he will make a statement on the matter”*
- Alan Farrell TD

Dear Deputy Farrell,

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

Within Integrated Health Areas of Dublin North County and Dublin North City & West there are approximately 3999 children on the Primary Care Occupational Therapy (OT) waiting list.

The breakdown of the list is as follows:

Integrated Health Areas of Dublin North County and Dublin North City & West Breakdown of weeks for Children on Primary Care Occupational Therapy Waiting List						
	0-12 weeks	12-26 weeks	26-39 weeks	39-52 weeks	52+ weeks	Total
Up to four years and 11 months of age	138	118	94	91	234	675
Five to 18 years of age	224	372	348	258	2122	3324

The Occupational Therapy team across Integrated Health Areas of Dublin North County and Dublin North City & West are progressing development of new clinical pathways. When a parent or guardian receives an acceptance letter and is awaiting an appointment the letter includes information on access to advice clinic for parents or guardians of any children while on the waiting list. The letter will also include links to workshops for example sensory which may be accessed via:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/lho/dublinnw/occupational-therapy-for-children/>.

This provides ideas for the parent or guardian or caregiver on how to support the child's development and provides signposting to other services.

In addition, Occupational Therapists prioritised completing handwriting assessments and assistive technology reports for exams for current third and sixth year students to help ensure they receive supports prior to commencement of state exams.



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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Forde".

Michelle Forde
Head of Service Primary Care
HSE Integrated Health Areas of Dublin North County and
Dublin North City & West