

Our Ref: 218  
February 2024

## Re: Your request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act regarding the community health services for speech and language.

Please can you provide the following in the format of an Excel spreadsheet:

1. The total number of patients currently on the waiting list to receive speech and language therapy services.
2. A breakdown of the waiting list by age groups (0-5 years, 6-10 years, 11-15 years, 16-18 years, 18+ years) for the latest calendar year 2023.
3. A breakdown of the number of patients by age group waiting from referral to first appointment:
  - 0-1 weeks (0-7 days)
  - 1-2 weeks (8-14 days)
  - 2-4 weeks (15-28 days)
  - 4-12 weeks (29-84 days)
  - 12-18 weeks (85-126 days)
  - 18-52 weeks (127-364 days)
  - Over 52 weeks (over 365days)
4. Historical data on the waiting list – the total number of patients waiting for speech and language services, a breakdown by age group and weeks waiting for 2019, 2020 and 2021 or the latest year for when records began.

We can't answer this question due to this data not being monitored routinely electronically and therefore information from the system would provide inaccurate data which the service would need to validate each patient (exceeding the FOI timescales). Exemption 12