

27th June 2019

Mr David Cullinane T.D.
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin

PQ 26777/19

To ask the Minister for Health the number of children in County Waterford aged 6 to 18 years of age awaiting ASD diagnostic assessments; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for a response.

I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position

There have been significant year on year increases in the number of children applying for assessment including Autism Disorder Spectrum and all disability services which has led to delays in timeframes. To date we can confirm that there are 71 children aged 6-18 awaiting ASD assessment on 24th June 2019.

The HSE acknowledged that with the increased referral rates and demands for assessments and disability services, there is a requirement for additional resources to meet current need. The HSE's 2019 National Service Plan has recognised this and South East Community Healthcare has been successful in securing 15 additional post to improve access and assessments for children in Waterford and in counties Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary and Wexford. These posts will initially be prioritised to support diagnostic assessment.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Patricia McEvoy
General Manager, Disability Service-South East Community Healthcare