



12<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Ms. Maureen O'Sullivan, TD,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Kildare Street,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2.

Head of Service Social Care,  
HSE Community Healthcare Organisation  
Dublin North City & County,  
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**Re: 23913: PQ 42640/19**

To ask the Minister for Health the waiting lists for children to be diagnosed on the spectrum for autism in the Dublin 9 and 11 areas; and the way in which this compares to the national average - Maureen O'Sullivan.

Dear Deputy O'Sullivan,

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Both Dublin 9 and Dublin 11 are located in the catchment area of CHO Dublin North City and County (DNCC). In CHO DNCC, assessments of children are undertaken by Early Intervention Teams, School Age Disability Teams and through the Assessment of Need process. These services are generic disability assessment and intervention services and do not work exclusively with children with Autism. In this context, there is no specific waiting list for Autism assessment in CHODNCC. The waiting time for the Early Intervention Teams is currently 12-14 months. As two separate School Age Disability Teams cover Dublin 11, their waiting time ranges from 6 months to 24 months. The Early Intervention Team and the School Age Disability Team, however, often consider it appropriate to provide some intervention in advance of commencing diagnostic work. The statutory timeframe for completion of Assessment of Need is six months. The Assessment of Need process does not necessarily require that a diagnostic assessment is undertaken.

There are no national Key Performance Indicators on waiting times for Autism Spectrum Disorder assessments and I am therefore unable to provide a comparison to the national average.

Please be advised that CHO DNCC was allocated 16 multi-disciplinary posts in 2019. These posts have been distributed between the School Age Disability Teams which will enable them increase the age range covered by the Teams and also support them in reducing their current waiting lists.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours sincerely

**Mairead Lyons**  
Head of Service – Social Care