



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

Office of the Head of Operations,
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1st November 2019

Deputy Anne Rabbitte,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2. e-mail: anne.rabbitte@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Rabbitte,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary questions, which were submitted to this department for response.

PQ 43200/19

To ask the Minister for Health the number of children waiting for an assessment of dyslexia in each county by periods (details supplied) in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Details Supplied: of 0-4 months, 4-8 months, 8-12 months and 12 months

PQ 43201/19

To ask the Minister for Health the number of children waiting for an assessment of dyspraxia in each county by periods (details supplied) in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter..

Details Supplied: of 0-4 months, 4-8 months, 8-12 months and 12 months +

HSE Response

Children and adults with Dyslexia or Dyspraxia may have difficulty with thinking, planning and carrying out sensory/motor tasks, and may benefit from the therapeutic support of healthcare professionals. They also need support and understanding in the education system to help them reach their full potential.

In the health service over the past decades there have been major changes in how services are delivered. Current services are based on the principle of mainstreaming with a clear focus on ensuring persons with a disability have access to the normal range of services and participate in community life as far as possible. The National Policy on Access to Services for Children & Young People with Disability & Developmental Delay ensures that children are directed to the appropriate service based on the complexity of their presenting needs rather than based on diagnosis. Many children and adults with a disability who have support needs can be effectively supported within mainstream child and adult health services. Most children with dyspraxia or dyslexia will access services via Primary Care. A proportion, representing those with assessed need for specialist services are referred to disability services.

The Health Service Executive does not currently collect information specifically on persons with Dyspraxia or Dyslexia. The National Disability Databases (NIDD & NPSDD) annual reports present data on the specialised health and personal social service use and requirements of people with a disability. However, participation in the databases is voluntary and therefore not every individual in Ireland, who has a disability, consents to inclusion on the database. This is a reflection that such individuals may not be availing of, or requiring, a specialised disability health and personal social services and may therefore access services and supports through the generic Primary Care Services. Therefore, the database does not provide any definitive epidemiological statement on the number of people with a particular type of disability or diagnosis, nor does it cover the proportion of people living in Ireland who have a disability and have chosen not to register.

Yours sincerely,



**Dr. Cathal Morgan,
Head of Operations - Disability Services,
Community Operations**