



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
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26^h September 2019

Deputy Thomas Broughan
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House, Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
e-mail: tommy.broughan@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Broughan,

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

PQ 37309/19

To ask the Minister for Health the number of applications for assessments of needs under the Disability Act 2005 in which a referral was made by the assessment officer under section 8(3) of the Act to the National Council of Special Education by county; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

Part 2 of the Disability Act (2005) provides for an Assessment of Need (AON) of people with disabilities. The Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform "Guide to the Disability Act 2005" provides clarity in relation to this Assessment of Need and states that:

"Part 2 establishes a system for the assessment of individual health service needs and, where appropriate, education needs for persons with disabilities over age 18 years."

Eligibility for an Assessment of Need is currently limited to children born on or after 1st June 2002. The reference in Section 8.3 of the Act, which refers to the role of the National Council for Special Education, is refined in Section 7.3 where it is clarified that the Council's role relates to the assessment of adults with disabilities.

In some instances, when a child receives an Assessment of Need, there may be a requirement to liaise with the NCSE regarding the provision of education supports. However, the HSE does not centrally collate data in relation to these referrals.

Yours sincerely,

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