



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Disability Service
South East Community Healthcare
Health Service Executive
Lacken
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28th July 2020

Mr Martin Browne TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ ref 20304/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons awaiting a needs assessment in CH05; the number that have been waiting less than 3, 3 to 6, 6 to 12 and more than 12 months in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Browne

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for 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 assessments within disability services including Autism Disorder Spectrum assessments which has led to delays in timeframes for carrying out these assessments. It is acknowledged that given the increased referral rates and demand for assessments and other disability supports, there is a requirement for additional resources to meet current needs.

The HSE's 2019 National Service Plan has recognised this and South East Community Healthcare (SECH) has been successful in securing 15 additional post to improve access to services and assessments for children across SECH. These posts will initially be prioritised to support diagnostic assessments.

Under the Disability Act 2005, the Assessment of Need (AON) must begin no later than 3 months after receipt of a completed application and be completed no later than 3 months after the date it begins.

The table below outlines the numbers of AON applications received and those applications that are due in both Stage 1 and Stage 2.

	Stage 1				Stage 2 (awaiting completion of assessment)
	<1 month	1-3 months	>3 months	Total overdue	Total Overdue
Carlow/Kilkenny	0	0	0	0	80
Wexford	7	6	50	63	221
South Tipperary	0	5	0	5	106
Waterford	0	20	0	20	148

In line with public health guidance, at the outset of the COVID -19 pandemic, these services, along with many other services, were significantly reduced to limit exposure to Covid-19. At this time the HSE are reviewing best practice, based on Public Health guidelines to resume the assessment process.

Yours sincerely,



Ms. Anne Ennis
Acting/Head of Service, Disability Service
South East Community Healthcare