



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Disability Service
South East Community Healthcare
Health Service Executive
Lacken
Dublin Road
Kilkenny
R95NV08

Telephone 353 56 7734804

27th April 2021

Mr. Johnny Mythen TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 19032/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons awaiting a needs assessment in CHO5; the number waiting less than 3, 3 to 6, 6 to 12 and more than 12 months respectively in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Mythen,

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.

Under the HSE's 2021 National Service Plan South East Community Healthcare received 7 new development posts for assignment to the Children's Disability Network posts

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 overdue for completion as per the 1stth Quarter Report in 2021:

Table 1. Applications overdue for completion in the 31st March 2021

CHO	LHO	Overdue	Overdue	1-3 months	>3 Months
Area 5	Carlow/Kilkenny	16	1	1	14
	Tipperary S.R.	60	7	2	51
	Waterford	89	0	0	89
	Wexford	86	9	2	75
Total		251	17	5	229

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.

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

Yours sincerely,



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