



22<sup>nd</sup> December 2021

Mr Alan Farrell, TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

Email: alan.farrell@oireachtas.ie

**PQ ref 59877/21 –**

To ask the Minister for Health the number of children currently awaiting assessments of needs in north County Dublin; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Farrell,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

By way of background, in January 2020 a revised Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Assessment of Need (AON) was developed in line with the Disability Act 2005 now referred to as the Preliminary Team Assessment (PTA) model. The process for AON pre January 2020 is now referred to as the “Old SOP” or “pre January 2020” model of Assessment.

Each AON referral is subject to a timeframe set out in the Disability Act 2005 and the three stages of an AON are expected to be completed within specified timeframes. There are a number of contributing factors which impact delays in the prescribed timeframes including, volume of referrals and available resources, the pandemic, cyberattack, persons who do not attend scheduled appointments among others

The number of children currently awaiting Assessments of Needs (AON) in Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC) North County Dublin area is as follows:

Old SOP	332
New SOP PTA	318
Review of Old SOP	178
<b>Total In progress awaiting assessments</b>	<b>828</b>

CHO DNCC has completed Stage 1 of Assessment for all Old SOP Applications. It is anticipated that the majority of New SOP PTAs can be processed within legal timeframes as set out in the Disability Act 2005.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Olive Hanley". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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**Ms Olive Hanley**  
**Head of Service for Disability**