

21st December, 2021

Mr Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire, TD.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 62631/21

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of children waiting for an assessment of needs in Cork city and county, by area.”

Dear Deputy Ó Laoghaire,

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare has been requested to reply to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for response.

Children and young people born on or after 1st June 2002 who are suspected of having a disability can apply for an Assessment of Need (AON) under the Disability Act (2005). The Act allows for an assessment of the child’s health needs. The assessment of need process consists of two stages, the first stage involves a review of the referral to the assessment of need process by an assessment officer which is an administrative process: it is a combined desktop and information gathering exercise carried out by an Assessment Officer to include receiving an application, acknowledging its receipt, ensuring the application is completed in full, checking the child’s eligibility, requesting additional reports or information from the parents if they were not supplied with the application, and if deemed appropriate referring the child for a clinical assessment of need. Assessments of Need commence within a statutory timeframe of 12 weeks.

The third quarter 2021 report figures for applications due to commence at stage two and had not done so are as follows:

CKCH	452	75	134	243
Kerry	41	7	13	21
Cork North	60	8	17	35
Cork North Lee	231	36	57	138
Cork South Lee	120	24	47	49
Cork West	0	0	0	0

The number of applications which are overdue for completion are as follows

CKCH	758	22	736
Kerry	114	17	97
Cork North	88	2	86
Cork North Lee	314	0	314
Cork South Lee	222	1	221
Cork West	20	2	18

However, a waiting list initiative has commenced to address these overdue assessments with the expectation that all assessments will be within target by end of Q1 2022.

I trust this clarifies the situation for you.

Yours sincerely,



**Ms. Majella Daly,
Head of Disability Services,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**

