



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,  
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,  
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

Office of the Head of Operations,  
Disability Services/Community Operations,  
31-33 Catherine Street, Limerick.

T: 00353 (0) 61 483369

Suíomh Gréasáin/Website: <http://www.hse.ie>

18<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Deputy Mark Ward,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
e-mail: [mark.ward@oireachtas.ie](mailto:mark.ward@oireachtas.ie)

Dear Deputy Ward,

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

#### **PQ 12192/21**

*To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 550 of 20 January 2021, if he will provide a full and accurate breakdown of the assessment of needs requests by primary concern listed on the application forms between 2016 to the latest date in 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

#### **PQ 12193/21**

*To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 550 of 20 January 2021, if he will provide a full and accurate breakdown of the assessment of needs requests by suggested supports listed on the application forms between 2016 and to date in 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

*Refers to PQ 2550/21*

#### **HSE Response**

Since the Disability Act commenced in June 2007, the HSE has endeavoured to meet its legislative obligations under the Act. However, as a consequence of a High Court ruling of December 2009, the effect of which was to open eligibility to all children born after 1st June 2002, the number of children aged five and over, and in addition of school-going age, has risen steadily as a percentage of all applications received. At the end of 2011, the figure stood at 26%, while throughout 2020, this figure averaged 54%. This is a reflection that the AON process is an accumulative process in terms of numbers of children seeking access. However, it is acknowledged that the numbers of assessments overdue for completion remain high, although there had been some improvement in these figures in 2018 and 2019 prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Assessment of Need is reported on a quarterly basis and the information contained in this quarterly report is based on data extracted from the Assessment Officers' System Database (AOS). With regard to your queries concerning assessment of needs requests by primary concern and assessment of needs requests by suggested supports listed on the application forms, this information is not collated

as the AON application form provides applicants with a free text box to outline the concerns, rather than a drop-down menu of choices. This type of data is extremely useful for informing the appropriate pathway for each child but cannot be collated in the manner suggested.

However, for information, please see the Appendix 1 below, which contains table 4b from each quarterly report for 2020. This table shows the frequency (ranked nationally) with which a requirement for certain services has been indicated in Assessment Reports completed during the quarter, including reviewed reports. The pattern is consistent year on year.

I also attach the Q4 report for 2020 as an example of the data that is collected.

Yours sincerely,



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

## Appendix 1.

### 4b. Service Requirements Identified in Completed Reports.

This table shows the frequency (ranked nationally) with which a requirement for certain services has been indicated in Assessment Reports completed during the quarter, including reviewed reports. During the **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2020**, 701 people deemed to have a disability under the Act had services identified on reports.

Service Requirements	Service Totals	Frequency of Services Indicated
Occupational Therapy	470	67%
Speech and Language Therapy	439	63%
Psychology	436	62%
ASD service	244	35%
Physiotherapy	143	20%
Paediatric Services (Hospital/Community)	88	13%
Psychiatry /CAMHs	61	9%
Social Work	50	7%
Dietetics	26	4%
Pre-school support	18	3%
Audiology	16	2%
Ophthalmology	12	2%
General Health Services	6	1%
Home Support Services	6	1%
Nursing	6	1%
Hospital based Medical/Surgical Services	5	1%
Aids and Appliances	4	1%
Respite Services	4	1%
Complementary / Play Therapy	3	<0.5%
Dentistry	1	<0.5%
Residential Services	1	<0.5%

### 4b. Service Requirements Identified in Completed Reports.

This table shows the frequency (ranked nationally) with which a requirement for certain services has been indicated in Assessment Reports completed during the quarter, including reviewed reports. During the **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2020**, 555 people deemed to have a disability under the Act had services identified on reports.

Service Requirements	Service Totals	Frequency of Services Indicated
Occupational Therapy	360	65%
Speech and Language Therapy	344	62%
Psychology	324	58%
ASD service	209	38%
Physiotherapy	83	15%
Psychiatry /CAMHs	61	11%
Paediatric Services (Hospital/Community)	60	11%

Social Work	45	8%
Dietetics	17	3%
Pre-school support	13	2%
Audiology	10	2%
Ophthalmology	8	1%
Complementary / Play Therapy	6	1%
Home Support Services	5	1%
General Health Services	4	1%
Nursing	4	1%
Hospital based Medical/Surgical Services	3	1%
Aids and Appliances	2	<0.5%
Respite Services	2	<0.5%
Dentistry	1	<0.5%
Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing	1	<0.5%

#### 4b. Service Requirements Identified in Completed Reports.

This table shows the frequency (ranked nationally) with which a requirement for certain services has been indicated in Assessment Reports completed during the quarter, including reviewed reports. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2020, 523 people deemed to have a disability under the Act had services identified on reports.

Service Requirements	Service Totals	Frequency of Services Indicated
Occupational Therapy	305	58%
Speech and Language Therapy	281	54%
Psychology	270	52%
ASD service	217	41%
Physiotherapy	96	18%
Paediatric Services (Hospital/Community)	71	14%
Psychiatry /CAMHs	62	12%
Social Work	32	6%
Pre-school support	21	4%
Dietetics	18	3%
Audiology	8	2%
Ophthalmology	8	2%
Hospital based Medical/Surgical Services	6	1%
Complementary / Play Therapy	5	1%
Aids and Appliances	4	1%
Nursing	4	1%
General Health Services	3	1%
Day Services	2	<0.5%
Respite Services	2	<0.5%
Dentistry	1	<0.5%
Home Support Services	1	<0.5%
Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing	1	<0.5%
Services for Visually Impaired	1	<0.5%

#### 4b. Service Requirements Identified in Completed Reports.

This table shows the frequency (ranked nationally) with which a requirement for certain services has been indicated in Assessment Reports completed during the quarter, including reviewed reports. During the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2020, 1,334 people deemed to have a disability under the Act had services identified on reports.

Service Requirements	Service Totals	Frequency of Services Indicated
Occupational Therapy	867	65%
Speech and Language Therapy	846	63%
Psychology	773	58%
ASD service	456	34%
Physiotherapy	249	19%
Paediatric Services (Hospital/Community)	188	14%
Psychiatry /CAMHs	113	8%
Social Work	68	5%
Audiology	42	3%
Dietetics	41	3%
Nursing	32	2%
Pre-school support	30	2%
Ophthalmology	27	2%
General Health Services	19	1%
Home Support Services	15	1%
Complementary / Play Therapy	7	1%
Aids and Appliances	5	<0.5%
Hospital based Medical/Surgical Services	4	<0.5%
Respite Services	4	<0.5%
Dentistry	3	<0.5%
Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing	3	<0.5%
Day Services	1	<0.5%