



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,  
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24<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Deputy Christopher O'Sullivan,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
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Dear Deputy O'Sullivan,

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

#### PQ 13440/21

*To ask the Minister for Health if he will conduct a review into the current assessment of needs standard operating procedure; the role parents will take in this review; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

#### HSE Response

As part of the HSE's continuous quality improvement programme and as agreed with the Fórsa trade union in January 2020, the HSE has committed to a comprehensive review of the operation of the SOP.

The Terms of Reference for this review which will be chaired by Mr Robbie Ryan, have now been agreed. The review group will comprise five nominees from Fórsa and five from the HSE and will commence meetings in March 2021. These nominees will represent a range of stakeholders including Assessment Officers, Children's Disability Network Managers, Heads of Disability Services, National Clinical Programme for People with Disabilities, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Psychologists and Speech & Language Therapists.

The group will, over a 12-month period:

- Examine the current SOP for Assessment of Need, in particular the issues arising with regards to the Preliminary Team Assessment.
- Examine and quantify existing staff resources, both clinical and administrative, associated with meeting the requirements of Assessment of Need under the Disability Act (2005). Identify any shortfalls and make recommendations for remedies.
- Examine infrastructural resource requirements for the delivery of AON. e.g. non staff related resources such as IT supports, etc. Make any appropriate recommendations.

- Evaluate the impact of the SOP for Assessment of Need. This will include examination of Assessment of Need activity data with a particular focus on the numbers of assessments completed and compliance with statutory timeframes.

The Chairperson will issue interim reports after 3 months, 6 months and a final report after 12 months. The Chairperson may decide to invite submissions from any other party he considers relevant for the purposes of this review. This may include consultation with parents, CORU, HIQA, professional bodies etc.

Yours sincerely,



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