



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Ceannaire Seirbhíse
Seirbhísí Meabhairshláinte an Mheán Iarthair
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HSE Mid West Community Healthcare
Mid-West Mental Health Services
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Mr. Martin Browne, TD
Clonmel
Co Tipperary

01st April 2021

Re: PQ 15101/21 – “To ask the Minister for Health his views on families having to access private ASD assessments for children before they will be considered for treatment at CAMHS services; his views on the way one family in north County Tipperary is unable to get access for their six year-old child with ADHD to occupational therapy services with CAMHS due to the fact they have no physical room for them to work in; the reason therapists are not in a position to provide the service to the child in question who is in need of a multidisciplinary team approach; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Browne,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question and wish to advise of the following.

Children do not have to have a private ASD assessment before being seen by CAMHS, North Tipperary. If an ASD assessment is indicated the service that assesses and treats ASD in this catchment is the North Tipperary Disability Children's Service. Some families may elect to seek a private assessment.


CAMHS in North Tipperary is primarily located in Tyone Health Centre, in this building the Occupational Therapist currently does not have access to a large enough clinic room to facilitate developmental assessments and interventions. Space for this type of assessment is currently carried out in a Primary Care Centre. Unfortunately, this has been impacted by COVID surge measures within the HSE. At no point has a referral to CAMHS Occupational Therapy for any child been declined upon the basis of access to space.

If a child has ASD and ADHD then their Occupational Therapy needs would be met by the North Tipperary Children's Service, as their primary diagnosis is ASD. Therefore, the current limitation on facilities in CAMHS does not apply.

Children and young people with a diagnosis of ADD/ADHD and comorbid issues attending CAMHS requiring involvement from specific disciplines within the CAMHS multidisciplinary team have access to this.

I trust this clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely,



for **Niamh Wallace**
Head of Service,
Mid West Mental Health Services