

15th November, 2021

Mr Thomas Gould, TD.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 53158/21

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of children waiting zero to three, three to six, six to 12, 9 to 12, 12 to 24 and 24 months plus for AON in County Cork in tabular form.”

Dear Deputy Gould,

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.

Assessment of Needs commence within a statutory timeframe of 12 weeks. There are currently 411 overdue assessments to commence in Co. Cork. However, there is a waiting list initiative commencing this week to address this waiting list.

I trust this clarifies the situation for you.

Yours sincerely,



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