



Ceann Seirbhíse, Míchumais,
Baile Átha Cliath Theas, Cill Dara & Iarthar Chill Mhantáin
– Cúram Sláinte Pobail
Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co. Chill Dara, W91 KDC2

Head of Service, Disabilities
Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow Community Healthcare
Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare, W91 KDC2
Email: cho7.pqreps@hse.ie Tel: (045) 882 597

24 November 2021

Mark Ward TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Ref: PQ 54626/21

Re: *“To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE has begun to outsource the final assessment of need paperwork to a private provider; the reason for this; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”*

- Mark Ward TD

Dear Deputy Ward,

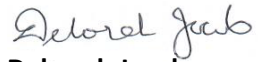
The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Since the start of the Assessment of Need (AON) initiative in Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow Community Healthcare we have completed 903 diagnostic clinical team assessments and 1338 preliminary (clinical) team assessments as part of stage 2 of a service user's AON. In order to complete stage 2, an assessment report needs to be completed that determines whether a service user has a disability or not (as defined in the Act) and, for those determined to have a disability, identify their health needs.

The administrative task of completing assessment reports for this number of PTA's is considerable and we had explored internal avenues to assist with completion of these reports. Unfortunately, we were unable to progress with temporary assignment of staff members to the role of Assessment Officers to assist with this due to IR challenges. In consultation with our Assessment Officers we have since engaged with an external agency from our National Framework to recruit agency Assessment Officers to assist with the completion of our assessment report backlog as our HSE Assessment Officers identified that they did not have the capacity to complete the reports within the required timeframes. We have provided initial training for the agency Assessment Officers through our National Office as well as ongoing feedback and support from our HSE Assessment Officers to complete this project. We are currently well advanced with this work and once this backlog is cleared we expect that we will be able to maintain AON service provision within legislatively mandated timeframes with our existing HSE resource.

I hope the above information helps you but please don't hesitate to come back to me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



Deborah Jacob

Head of Service, Disability Services

Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow Community Healthcare.