



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Head of Service -Disability Service Office
South East Community Healthcare
Health Service Executive
Lacken
Dublin Road
Kilkenny
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12th October 2021

Mr. Martin Browne
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 48376

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons awaiting a needs assessment in CHO 5; the number who have been waiting less than 3, 3 to 6, 6 to 12 and more than 12 months, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Browne,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.

There have been significant year on year increases in the number of children applying for assessments within disability services including Autism Disorder Spectrum assessments which has led to delays in timeframes for carrying out these assessments. It is acknowledged that given the increased referral rates and demand for assessments and other disability supports, there is a requirement for additional resources to meet current needs.

Under the Disability Act 2005, the Assessment of Need (AON) must begin no later than 3 months after receipt of a completed application and be completed no later than 3 months after the date it begins.

The table below outlines the numbers of AON applications overdue for completion as per the 2nd Quarter Report in 2021:

Table 1. Applications overdue for completion on the 30th June 2021

CHO	LHO	Overdue	<1 month	1-3 months	>3 Months
Area 5	Carlow/Kilkenny	12	1	3	8
	Tipperary S.R.	41	4	4	33
	Waterford	59	0	2	57
	Wexford	46	4	7	35
Total		158	9	16	133

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Fitzgerald".

Ms. Karen Fitzgerald
General Manager, Disability Services
South East Community Healthcare