



27TH October 2021

Ms. Mary Lou McDonald, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Email: marylou.mcdonald@oireachtas.ie

PQ ref 49517/21 - Number children waiting on initial AON

'To ask the Minister for Health the number of children aged 18 years and under in Dublin 1, 3, 7 and 9 who are currently awaiting an initial assessment of need from the HSE'

Head of Service for Disability
HSE Community Healthcare Organisation
Dublin North City & County,
Swords Business Campus, Balheary Road,
Swords, Co. Dublin, K67 X3Y9
☎: 01 8131820
✉: Headofservicedisability.dncc@hse.ie

Dear Deputy McDonald,

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

In January 2020 a revised Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Assessment of Need (AON) was developed in line with the Disability Act 2005 now referred to as the Preliminary Team Assessment (PTA) model. The process for AON pre January 2020 is now referred to as the "Old SOP" or "pre January 2020" model of Assessment. Each AON referral is subject to a timeframe set out in the Disability Act 2005 and the three stages of an AON are expected to be completed within specified timeframes. There are a number of contributing factors which impact delays in the prescribed timeframes including, volume of referrals and available resources, the pandemic, cyber-attack, persons who do not attend scheduled appointments among others.

Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City & County (CHO DNCC) completed circa 1,381 Assessments of Need (AONs) from September 2020 to September 2021. This refers to AONs across the entire area. Data regarding AONs is compiled via a national database system and collates the information from CHO DNCC based on referrals from Dublin North, Dublin North Central and Dublin North West. The address areas to which your query refers is based mainly in Dublin North Central and the Dublin 9 area is based in Dublin North West.

Of the 1,381 AONs referred above,

- 93 were completed in Dublin North Central
- 511 were completed in Dublin North West some of which refer to Dublin 9
- There are 47 AONs as of 01st October 2021 in process across Dublin North Central.
- There are 164 AONs as of 01st October 2021 in process across Dublin North West

New referrals for AON across the CHO for the month of October 2021 will be available towards the end of November 2021 and so on.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Olive Hanley
Head of Service for Disability