



7th October 2021

Deputy Denis Naughten,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 44483/21 - To ask the Minister for Health if behavioural optometry assessments are available publicly for children with special educational needs; and if he will make a statement on the matter

- Denis Naughten

Dear Deputy Naughten,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 44483/21), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

All Irish children, when referred through the school vision programme, have access to a comprehensive full ophthalmic eye examination including a cycloplegic refraction and an orthoptic assessment. The use of supplementary assessments such as behavioural optometry is a developing area, however the scientific evidence currently available does not support the utility of these assessments. The clinical programme advises that the available resources for paediatric ophthalmology should continue to be directed towards the provision of the existing services, where there is a pressing need, to ensure children are receiving timely and effective treatments.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations