



Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

Office of the Head of Operations,
Disability Services/Social Care Division,
31-33 Catherine Street, Limerick.

T: 00353 (0) 61 483369
Suíomh Gréasáin/Website: <http://www.hse.ie>

21st April 2022

Deputy David Cullinane,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: david.cullinane@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary questions, which were submitted to this department for response.

PQ 17445/22

To ask the Minister for Health the office or unit in the HSE and in his Department which are ultimately responsible for ensuring that reports as required under section 13 of the Disability Act 2005 are completed and received by him and subsequently published; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 17465/22

To ask the Minister for Health the persons in the grade of the individual within the HSE who is responsible for submitting reports to him under section 13 of the Disability Act 2005; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

Part two of the Disability Act (2005) provides for an Assessment of Need (AON) of people with disabilities. Any person born on or after June 1st 2002 who is suspected of having a disability is eligible to apply for an Assessment of Need that will detail the health and education needs arising from their disability.

The Disability Act 2005 requires certain records to be kept concerning the assessment of need process under Part 2 of the Act. Section 13(1) of the Act states that:

The Executive shall keep and maintain records for the purpose of:

- (a) Identifying persons to whom assessments or services are being provided pursuant to this Part or the Act of 2004.*
- (b) Identifying those services and the persons providing the services pursuant to this Part.*
- (c) Specifying the aggregate needs identified in assessment reports which have not been included in the service statements.*
- (d) Specifying the number of applications for assessments made under section 9 and the number of assessments completed under that section.*
- (e) Specifying the number of persons to whom services identified in assessment reports have not been provided, including the ages and the categories of disabilities of such persons.*



(f) *Planning the provision of those assessments and services to persons with disabilities.*

Section 13(2) requires the Executive to submit a report in relation to:

...the aggregate needs identified in assessment reports prepared including an indication of the periods of time ideally required for the provision of the services, the sequence of such provision and an estimate of the cost of such provision.

The Act stipulates that the *Executive* (Health Service Executive) shall keep and maintain records as outlined above and does not prescribe which department/unit or grade of staff to whom this task and responsibility should be assigned.

The HSE has prepared and presented S13 Annual Reports for the years 2007 to 2014 to the Department of Health. Work has commenced on producing S13 Reports for the years 2015-2020 to bring us up to date.

The HSE is committed to the development of a new integrated Management Information System for children's disability services, which will include a module on the Assessment of Need process under the Disability Act. This will facilitate the HSE to provide a wide range of reports on AON activity.

The delay in submitting S13 Reports to the Department of Health will not have impacted on the HSE's ongoing engagement with the DoH on the requirement for additional resources for Children's Disability Services and the Assessment of Need process under the Disability Act, 2005. These requirements would have been submitted to DoH as part of the Estimates Process each year.

The HSE and Department of Health Officials met this month to discuss the issue of S13 Reports in greater detail and it was agreed that the remaining reports will be completed by year end.

Yours sincerely



Bernard O'Regan
Head of Operations - Disability Services,
Community Operations