



**Ceannasaí Seirbhíse do
Dhaoine Faoi Mhíchumas**

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24th February 2022

Mr Paul McAuliffe, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Email: paul.mcauliffe@oireachtas.ie

PQ ref 6856/22

To ask the Minister for Health the status of progress to date in lowering the waiting times for assessment of needs in Dublin 9 and 11; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy McAuliffe,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you with information 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 Operation 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 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 stages of an AON are expected to be completed within specified timeframes. There are a number of contributing factors which result in delays to the prescribed timeframes including volume of referrals, available resources to carry out assessments and persons not attending appointments, among others.

In terms of waiting times for assessment, I can confirm that Stage 1 of the assessments are currently being carried out within the timeframe set out in the Disability Act 2005 for the PTA model. All Stage 1s for the Old SOP have also been completed.

PTAs (Stage 2) are being carried out by the Children’s Disability Network Teams. Some teams are experiencing some delays in carrying out these assessments due to available resources within the teams and we are working with these teams to alleviate delays that may be experienced.

The remaining Stage 2 Assessments for the Old SOP assessment will be allocated by the end of March 2022 with 23 still to be allocated.

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