

**Seirbhís Míchumais**

Cúram Sláinte Pobail Thoir, Bloc B, Lárionad
Cathrach, An tSráid Mhór, Bré, Co. Chill
Mhantáin, A98 X329

Disability Service

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23rd February 2022

Deputy Jim O'Callaghan
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 7544/22 - "To ask the Minister for Health the reason for the three-year backlog list in order for a child with autism to be seen in CHO6; and if he will make a statement on the matter".

Dear Deputy O'Callaghan,

Thank you for your recent correspondence. The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the current position.

Under Progressing Disabilities, children's services reconfigured into Childrens Disability Network Teams (CDNT's) on 13th September 2021.

The purpose of the CDNT's are to provide a clear pathway and fairer access to services for each child with a disability and their family based on their needs, not on their diagnosis, where they live or go to school. It makes the best use of available resources for the benefit of children and families. They work in partnership with families, with education staff and with other services such as Primary Care, CAMHS and community groups etc. to support children with a disability to reach their full potential.

Children, aged from birth to 18years of age, with complex needs arising from their disability will have access to a CDNT. Children on the waiting list for the CDNT are prioritised in date order. If an issue of concern were to arise while a child is on the waiting list, the case would be reviewed to determine if the child should come off the waiting list and transfer as an active case or remain on the waiting list.

Children aged 0-12months that are born with complex/developmental delay are prioritised.

HSE Disability Services acknowledge the stress and challenges for parents when their child requires interventions. I wish to assure you that Disability Services are committed to improving services for Children with Disabilities by providing a timely and appropriate service. Since reconfiguration into CDNT's, the clinicians are working through the active cases. The waiting list will be reviewed within the first quarter of 2022. Once this review is complete communication will issue to families.



I trust that this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

P. P. Natalie Alvey

Anna Meegan

General Manager, Disability Services