

26th January, 2022

Mr Pádraig O'Sullivan, TD.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 1162/22

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of children awaiting an assessment of need in each of the CHO areas of Cork city and county; the average waiting times; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy O'Sullivan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Children and young people born on or after 1st June 2002 who are suspected of having a disability can apply for an Assessment of Need (AON) under the Disability Act (2005). The Act allows for an assessment of the child's health needs. The assessment of need process consists of two stages. The first stage involves a review of the referral to the assessment of need process by an Assessment Officer, which is an administrative process. This is a combined desktop and information gathering exercise carried out by an Assessment Officer to include receiving an application, acknowledging its receipt, ensuring the application is completed in full, checking the child's eligibility, requesting additional reports or information from the parents if they were not supplied with the application, and if deemed appropriate referring the child for a clinical assessment of need. Assessments of Need commence within a statutory timeframe of 12 weeks.

The number of applications which are overdue:

	Total overdue applications	<1 mth	1-3 mths	>3 mths
Cork North	150	12	25	113
Cork North Lee	543	51	78	414
Cork South Lee	335	35	68	237
Cork West	14	2	3	9
Kerry	103	13	14	76
CKCH TOTAL	1145	113	183	849

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare Disability Services are commencing a waiting list initiative which will address 450 of these overdue assessments and reduce the waiting times.

I trust this clarifies the situation for you.

Yours sincerely,



Ms. Majella Daly,
Head of Disability Services,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare

