



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>

23rd June 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 question, which was submitted to this department for response.

PQ 29063/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of preliminary team assessments carried out on children with disabilities in 2021 and until the end of May 2022, broken down by each month; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

The HSE's Standard Operating Procedure for Assessment of Need was implemented for all new applications for AON from 15th January 2020. Since then, approximately 10,000 Preliminary Team Assessments have been completed. The HSE is currently reviewing these files and will engage directly with these families to establish if they wish to receive a further assessment under the terms of the Disability Act. Figures for 2021 indicate that 4,951 Preliminary Team Assessments were provided under the terms of the SOP during that year. 86% of the children who received these assessments were referred for interventions on the basis of their PTA. Only 54% of children who received a Preliminary Team Assessment in 2021 were identified as requiring further assessment. This requirement did not delay their access to intervention. This cohort of children will be prioritised for completion of their AONs.

Data on the number of PTAs completed was reported on a quarterly basis during 2021. As all Assessments of Need completed in the first quarter of 2022 were based on a PTA the data provided for this period is extracted from the regular quarterly report. The use of PTAs ceased following the High Court judgement in the case of CTM & JA v HSE in March of this year. No PTAs have been completed since then.

The data for 2021 and the first quarter of 2022 is provided below:

	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022
CHO1	59	114	125	68	62
CHO2	22	30	46	34	32
CHO3	126	58	126	65	81
CHO4	183	178	142	51	294



CHO5	48	16	23	52	46
CHO6	65	29	36	77	85
CHO7	0	861	400	146	443
CHO8	192	124	208	195	241
CHO9	195	204	250	403	435
Total					1719

Further to the judgement of Ms Justice S Phelan in the case of CTM and JA v. HSE, the HSE has established a group to develop a revised approach to Assessment of Need under the Disability Act 2005. Separately, a plan is being developed to address the needs of those children who received a Preliminary Team Assessment (PTA) and who may need additional diagnostic assessments.

In the interim as previously stated, the PTA approach as defined in the HSE's Standard Operating Procedure for Assessment of Need can no longer be utilised to fulfil our obligations under the Act. A memo has issued to all stakeholders to this effect.

The HSE remains committed to the delivery of appropriate services for children with disabilities and will work with families and staff to develop services that meet their need.

Yours sincerely



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