

1st November 2022

Denis Naughten TD
Dail Eireann
Kildare St
Dublin 2

PQ/52808/22

"To ask the Minister for Health the reason that Enable Ireland transferred its occupational therapy waiting list to the HSE in County Galway; if this has happened in other areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter".

Dear Deputy Naughten

I refer to PQ/52808/22 uploaded on the PAD System on the 19th October 2022 and due for response on the 7th November 2022 regarding representations that you have made to the Minister for Health concerning "the reason that Enable Ireland transferred its occupational therapy waiting list to the HSE in County Galway; if this has happened in other areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter". The HSE has been requested to reply directly to you on this matter. The following response outlines the position.

Please be advised that Enable Ireland Galway, prior to Progressing Disability Services reconfiguration, provided team based services to children. If a child was referred to Early Intervention, School Age, Development Co-ordination Disorder, Spasticity Management, Special Preschool or Assistive Technology Teams, there may have been a waiting period to be seen by the Team after the acceptance of the referral. There was no acceptance of individual referrals for one discipline only. If a child did not require Team intervention (more than one discipline) they would have been referred to Primary Care not Enable Ireland.

Under the model of Progressing Disability Services, all children known to Enable Ireland at the end of 2021 were reviewed under the National Access Policy which sets out a criteria under which the children's needs are accessed. Each child based on their identified needs was either transferred to a Children's Disability Network Team in their home geographic area or to Primary Care in their home geographic area. If a child did not meet the criteria for a Children's Disability Network Team they were referred to Primary Care. The national process for the transfer of children from their service providers to Children's Disability Network Teams or Primary Care was followed by Enable Ireland in CHO2.

I trust that this response has clarified the matter that you have raised in this instance.

Yours sincerely

pp Maura Monaghan

John Fitzmaurice
Head of Disability Services
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