



**Ceannasaí Seirbhíse do
Dhaoine Faoi Mhíchumas**

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Bóthar Bhaile Anraí, Sord,
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15th March 2023

Mr Alan Farrell, TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Email: alan.farrell@oireachtas.ie

PQ 10023/23 *"To ask the Minister for Health the number of children awaiting an assessment of need in the CHO9; and if he will make a statement on the matter."* **Alan Farrell TD**

Dear Deputy Farrell,

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.

Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC) wish to advise that the total number of applicants awaiting to complete an Assessments of Needs (AON) to date is 3,929.

This build up is due to sustained high referral rates over several years. The recent High Court judgement in March 2022 that has stated the Preliminary Team Assessment (PTA) approach used in AON does not meet the requirements of the Disability Act 2005 in terms of assessment also led to circa 2,955 PTAs that were completed having to now be reassessed.

The ability to carry out assessments is currently limited to an average of 100 assessments per month. These are carried out by Children's Disability Network Teams and private providers. The AON office in CHO DNCC are endeavouring to increase this capacity to allow for more AONs to take place. It is anticipated a tender for these services will be published in the coming weeks. All applications and assessments through AON are dealt with strictly in order of date of application.

As soon as an appointment becomes available contact will be made with parents to schedule a suitable time and date for assessments. I understand that each parent's priority is for their child and I empathise with the frustrations of those currently awaiting an assessment.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Olive Hanley
Head of Service for Disability