



**Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,**  
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,  
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

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6<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Deputy Holly Cairns,  
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Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
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Dear Deputy Cairns,

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: 8615/23**

*To ask the Minister for Health the steps he is taking to regulate private providers of assessment of need for children and young people.*

**HSE Response**

The Assessment of Need process is set out in the [Disability Act, 2005](#). The aim of an Assessment of Need under the Disability Act is to identify whether a person has a disability, any health and education needs arising from that disability, as well as what services are required to meet those needs. As required by the Act, the legislative Assessment of Need is coordinated by a HSE Assessment Officer.

HSE procedures specify that it is the Assessment Officer's role to ensure that potential assessors are suitably qualified and are familiar with the HSE's guidance for assessors and the iHIQA Standards for Assessment of Need. Where assessors are subject to statutory registration with a professional body such as CORU or the Medical Council, they must include their registration number on all Assessment of Need reports.

On occasion and in line with appropriate procurement procedures, Garda vetting and due diligence practice; private providers have been contracted to provide assessments and / or interventions. In such instances, the HSE ensures that the contracted providers are appropriately qualified and that any assessments or interventions are provided in line with the appropriate standards.

CORU is Ireland's multi-profession health regulator. Its role is to protect the public by promoting high standards of professional conduct, education, training and competence through statutory registration of health and social care professionals. CORU was set up under the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005 (as amended). It is made up of the Health and Social Care Professionals Council and the Registration Boards, one for each profession named in the Act. The Health and Social Care Professionals Council has 33 voluntary members and a Chair, appointed by the Minister for Health.

Each of the professions named in the Act is represented on the Council. There are also members from the education sector, patient advocacy groups, the voluntary sector and representatives of public and private



sector organisations who are concerned with health and social care. Psychologists have yet to be registered with CORU. This is a matter for the Professional Regulatory Unit in the Department of Health.

The HSE has no role in the regulation of clinicians and healthcare practitioners.

Yours sincerely,

*Bernard O'Regan*

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

