



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 January 2023

Deputy Pauline Tully,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: pauline.tully@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Tully,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary questions, which were submitted to this department for response.

PQ: 2552/23

To ask the Minister for Health the number of therapists working in children's disability network teams that are responsible for undertaking assessment of needs' determinations; the number of these therapists who also undertake assessment of needs' determinations in a private capacity; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

There are ninety one Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) providing services for children with complex disability needs. Children do not need an Assessment of Need (Disability Act 2005) to access these teams. Parents can refer their children directly to a CDNT. The clinicians working on CDNTs will undertake assessments, reviews and provide interventions for children on their caseloads.

An Assessment of Need is a separate legislative process provided for under Part 2 of the Disability Act (2005). Information on this process is available at www.hse.ie/aon.

As described in the Disability Act (2005), an Assessment Officer shall carry out assessments or arrange for their carrying out by other employees of the HSE or by other persons with appropriate experience. Having undertaken a desktop assessment of each application, the Assessment Officer refers each child to the appropriate clinical service for assessment. The Assessment Officer will consider their clinical report and will make a determination based on same.

Undertaking clinical assessments, either from direct referral to the CDNTs or following a request from an Assessment Officer as part of the legislative Assessment of Need process, is an integral function of the everyday work of all clinical staff on CDNTs.

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

Yours sincerely,

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

