



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>

24th 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 question, which was submitted to this department for response.

PQ: 3303/23

To ask the Minister for Health the name and contact details of the liaison officer attached to each CDNT; the name and contact details of the assessment officer attached to each CDNT; the name and contact details of the complaints officer attached to each CDNT; the name and contact details of the appeals officer attached to each CDNT in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

There are ninety one Children's Disability Network Teams providing services for children with complex disability needs. The contact details for each of these teams is available at www.hse.ie/childdisability.

This part of the HSE website also provides the referral forms for the CDNTs. Parents can refer their children directly to a team using the Children's Services Referral Form and Additional Information Form. Children do not need an Assessment of Need (Disability Act 2005) to access these teams.

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. Contact details for the Assessment of Need offices in all areas is available on this website.

An Assessment Officer is appointed by the HSE to perform the functions required under Part 2 of the Disability Act (2005). As described in Section 8(2) of the Act, 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. Section 8(4) specifies that Assessment Officers must be independent, therefore they are not linked to any CDNT or other service provider.

A Liaison Officer is appointed by the HSE to perform the functions described at Section 11 of the Disability Act (2005). As required by the Act, the Liaison Officer will provide service statements for persons for whom an Assessment of Need report has been issued which includes a determination that the person has a disability and the provision of health services or education services or both are appropriate for the applicant concerned.



When an Assessment Officer determines that a person meets the definition of disability described in the Act and has health needs associated with their disability, they forward the AON report to the Liaison Officer. The Liaison Officer will then prepare a statement of the health services that will be provided to the person.

The Disability Act (2005) provides for a complaints and redress process. In the first instance, applicants can make a complaint in relation to one or more of the following:

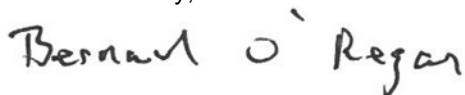
- a) a determination by the assessment officer concerned that he or she does not have a disability;
- b) the fact, if it be the case, that the assessment under *section 9* was not commenced within the time specified in *section 9(5)* or was not completed without undue delay;
- c) the fact, if it be the case, that the assessment under *section 9* was not conducted in a manner that conforms to the standards determined by a body referred to in *section 10*;
- d) the contents of the service statement provided to the applicant;
- e) the fact, if it be the case, that the Executive or the education service provider, as the case may be, failed to provide or to fully provide a service specified in the service statement.

The Disability Act complaints officers are independent of the AON offices and can be contacted on 045 880400 or aon.complaints@hse.ie .

As specified in the Act, the Disability Act Appeals Officer is appointed by the Minister for Health and can be contacted on 1800 211583 or appeal@odao.ie .

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 needs.

Yours sincerely,



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

