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South East Community Healthcare
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9th June 2023

Mr. Paul Kehoe TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 26768/23

To ask the Minister for Health when the new primary care area assessment team (PCAAT) in Wexford will be in a position to inform children when they will receive their diagnostic assessment; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Kehoe,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have examined the matter and the following response outlines the current position.

The Primary Care Autism Assessment Team (PCAAT) is a multi-disciplinary team consisting of Psychology, Speech and Language Therapy and Occupational Therapy. All referrals to the PCAAT are acknowledged to the referral source and family confirming acceptance of the referral to the team. Unfortunately, due to the number of children awaiting this assessment in the Waterford and Wexford area at present, it is not possible to estimate the individual wait time for children.

The current staffing on PCCAT team is as follows:

- 2 Psychologists both in post on the PCCAT team
- 1 WTE Senior OT on the team covering Waterford/Wexford
- 1 SLT post on PCCAT Team for Waterford/Wexford, the other post is currently vacant
- 1 WTE clerical officer

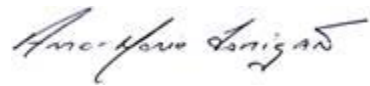
It is planned to initially review the Legacy Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) list with the aim of prioritising those children for assessment in the first instance.

There are approximately 600 children within Waterford/Wexford awaiting a service.

Every effort is being made to maximize service provision within the available resources.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Anna Marie Lanigan".

Anna Marie Lanigan
Head of Service-Primary Care/Assistant National Director
South East Community Healthcare