



Ceann Seirbhíse, Míchumais
Baile Átha Cliath Theas, Cill Dara &
Iarthar Chill Mhantáin

Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás,
Co. Chill Dara, W91 KDC

Head of Service, Disabilities
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3 July 2023

Denis Naughten TD
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Ref: PQ 29391/23

Re: “To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of assessment of need assessments that have been outsourced by the HSE to private providers in CHO7 in 2022 and 2023; the cost of same; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

- Denis Naughten

Dear Deputy Naughten,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth to the Health Service Executive for direct response. I requested that the Business Manager in Disability Services examine the matter and the following outlines the position.

The number of assessment outsourced in Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow (DSKWW) in 2022 was 23 and to end of May 2023 was 26. The average cost of a full ASD assessment including cognitive, Occupational Therapy and Speech & Language is €2,600. However, this is increasing.

The majority of children require a full ASD assessment including cognitive, Occupational Therapy and Speech & Language. These assessments require on average 36 clinical hours and require a team of 3 clinicians. Each team consists of 1 x Psychologist, 1 x Speech and Language Therapist, 1 x Occupational Therapist.


We're constantly requesting availability from private providers to complete AON Assessments. However, Private providers are experiencing the same recruitment issues as the HSE in recruiting suitably qualified clinical staff especially Psychology staff. Capacity is limited due to these recruitment issues.

The HSE is currently in the process of a National Tender for Assessments.

I trust this information is of use to you. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

P.P

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine Duffy." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Deborah Jacob

Head of Service, Disability Services

Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow Community Healthcare.