



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

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

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**14 April 2023**

Réada Cronin TD  
Dáil Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**Ref: PQ 13157/23**

*Re: "To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of children on waiting lists for an assessment of need for in CHO7 in each of the months of 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023; the number overdue for completion; the length of time they are overdue; the average length of wait, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter."*

**-Réada Cronin**

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**Dear Deputy Cronin,**

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.

Dublin South Kildare & West Wicklow (DSKWW) had a total of 1243 Preliminary Team Assessment's (PTAs) identified as requiring further assessment following court case in March 2022. There are ongoing efforts by HSE Disability Services to arrange for completion of outstanding assessments including national and overseas clinical staff recruitment campaigns to fill vacancies in Children's Disability Network teams (CDNT's) to increase the number of assessments each team can complete.

The campaigns also include recruitment of a diagnostic team (1 x psychologist, 1 x Occupational Therapist, 1 x Speech and Language Therapist) for each of the 11 CDNTs in the DSKWW area. Recruitment of clinicians is extremely challenging, and we anticipate that 50% of these teams will be in place in the next few months. The first team was put in place on the 1st of March 2023 and to date, we have 3 teams in place dedicated to the completion of overdue AON Assessments.

Below is the detail of outstanding assessments to the end of March 2023.

Application year	2021	2022	2023 (Jan-Mar 2023)
Assessments overdue for completion	713	1321	
Applications received not overdue for completion as at close Mar 2023		419	500
<b>Total</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>1740</b>	<b>500</b>

The 2021 assessments overdue for completion are re-assessments where the children have previously received a PTA and following review were identified as requiring further assessment.

The Disability Act, 2005 stipulates that assessments are commenced within 3 months of the date of receipt of the application and that the assessment report is forwarded to the Liaison Officer within a further 3 months. Therefore, assessments to the end of September 2022 are overdue for completion as at the end of March 2023 as per table above.

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



Deborah Jacob

**Head of Service, Disability Services**

**Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow Community Healthcare.**