



Ceannasaí Seirbhíse do
Dhaoine Faoi Mhíchumas

Campas Gnó Shoird,
Bóthar Bhaile Anraí, Sord,
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13th April 2023

Mr Alan Farrell TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Email: alan.farrell@oireachtas.ie

PQ 14394/23 *“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of children waiting for their assessment of need in the Balbriggan, Swords and coastal CDNT teams; and if he will make a statement on the matter.” Alan Farrell TD*

Dear Deputy Farrell,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

I wish to advise that the number of children awaiting on the various stages of an Assessment of Need (AON) in the Coastal, Balbriggan and Swords Networks is as follows:

Balbriggan Network: 558

Swords Network: 493

Coastal Network: 177

The AON office in Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC) is experiencing significant challenges in relation to AON applications. We continue to receive one of the highest levels of new applications for AON nationally, coupled with this, a High Court ruling in March 2022, meant that all children with AON applications that received a Preliminary Team Assessment (PTA) between 2020 and 2022 had to be reviewed and in the majority of cases a full re-assessment is now required.

These are carried out by Children’s Disability Network Teams and private providers. The AON office are allocating assessments to clinical service providers on an ongoing basis. All applications and assessments through AON are dealt with strictly in order of date of application. As soon as an appointment becomes available contact will be made with parents to schedule a suitable time and date for assessments.

It may be useful to know that an AON diagnosis is not essential for children to access health services. Parents are welcome to refer their child to their local Primary Care services or Children’s Disability Network Team (CDNT) at any stage. Contact details for all CDNTs can be found at <https://www2.hse.ie/services/disability/childrens-services/services/find-a-cdnt/> For Primary Care

Services a referral can be sent to referrals.nd@hse.ie for children in North Dublin and referrals.dnc@hse.ie for children living in Dublin North West and Dublin North Central.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Olive Hanley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Ms Olive Hanley
Head of Service for Disability