



**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>

29<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Deputy Mark Ward,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
E-mail: [mark.ward@oireachtas.ie](mailto:mark.ward@oireachtas.ie)

Dear Deputy Ward,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary questions, which were submitted to this department for response.

**PQ: 51685/23**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of young people who have had reassessments for autism spectrum disorder in children's disability network teams by year since 2020; the reasons for a reassessment; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

**PQ: 51686/23**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the options open to the families of individuals of who have had an autism spectrum disorder reassessment which has overturned their original diagnosis; what supports area available to the families; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

**HSE Response**

Children's disability services are provided based on the presenting needs of the child rather than by their diagnosis or the actual type of disability or service required. Services are provided following individual assessment according to the child's individual requirements and support needs.

In respect of those children applying for an Assessment under the Disability Act 2005, the aim of an Assessment of Need under the Disability Act, is to identify whether a person has a disability, the nature and extent of the disability, any health and education needs arising from that disability, as well as what services are required to meet those needs.

The HSE records data, pertaining to the assessment of need process, under the Disability Act, 2005.

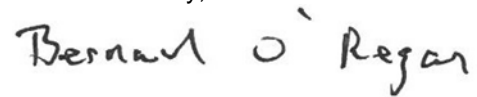
The numbers of applications for AON under the Act have risen steadily since its implementation in June 2007. 7,612 applications for AON were received in the most recent 4 quarters (Q3, 2022 – Q2 2023). This was the highest number of applications received in any 12 month period since Part 2 of the Act was commenced in June 2007 and represents a 23% increase on the number of AON applications



received in the previous 12 months. The specific detail regarding ASD assessments or reassessment is not collated.

**It is important to note that children do not require an Assessment of Need as defined by the Disability Act (2005) in order to access a CDNT or Primary Care service.** They can be referred by a healthcare professional or parent/carer to the CDNT for children with complex needs as a result of their disability, or to Primary Care for children with non-complex needs.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernard O'Regan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

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

