



**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.

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7<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Deputy Violet Anne Wynne,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
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Dear Deputy Wynne,

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

**PQ: 46420/23**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the test that must be satisfied in order for a person to avail of a fund (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Details supplied: Funding of €11.5 Million from the HSE for the outsourcing of Assessments of Need

**HSE Response**

Approximately €11.5m has been allocated to address waiting lists for clinical assessments identified through the Assessment of Need process. This funding is being utilised by the Community Healthcare Areas to procure diagnostic ASD assessments from the private sector.

In line with appropriate procurement procedures, Garda vetting and due diligence practice; private providers have been contracted by the HSE to provide a range of assessments and / or interventions to service users. In such instances, the HSE ensures that the contracted providers are appropriately qualified and that any assessments or interventions are provided in line with the appropriate standards.

**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,

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

