



**Oifig an Stiúrthóir Cúnta Náisiúnta,**  
Foireann Míchumais Náisiúnta,  
An Chéad Urlár - Oifigí 13, 14, 15,  
Àras Phlásóg na Rós, Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,  
Páirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta,  
Caladh an Treoigh,  
Luimneach.

**Office of the Assistant National Director,**  
National Disability Team,  
First Floor- Offices 13, 14, 15,  
Roselawn House, University Business Complex,  
National Technology Park,  
Castletroy,  
Limerick.

1<sup>st</sup> May 2024

Deputy Eoin Ó Broin  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
E-mail: [eoin.obroin@oireachtas.ie](mailto:eoin.obroin@oireachtas.ie)

Dear Deputy Ó Broin,

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: 14930/24**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the financial support options available to parents of children awaiting assessment of need; if there is a process of reimbursement available to those who pay privately for assessments given the extreme waiting periods for assessments provided by the HSE; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

**HSE Response**

Private providers are currently being contracted by the HSE and its funded agencies to provide assessments and / or interventions. In such instances, the HSE and HSE funded agencies ensure that the contracted providers are appropriately qualified and that any assessments or interventions are provided in line with the appropriate standards, appropriate procurement procedures, Garda vetting and due diligence practice.

Some families source private assessments to facilitate access to educational supports such as special schools or classes. In many cases, these are unidisciplinary assessments which may be accepted in the education sector. However, many of these assessments may be unnecessary, as the relevant school should be in a position to support the child without them.

In general, HSE or HSE funded services, in line with best practice guidelines, use a multidisciplinary approach to assessment, specifically to ASD assessment. In these circumstances, while HSE services may take cognisance of any unidisciplinary reports that may be available, they will undertake a



multidisciplinary assessment where appropriate, to confirm a diagnosis and to determine the necessary interventions.

The HSE does not fund or reimburse any fees paid to private practitioners in any of the health service areas where assessments or interventions have been commissioned by the service user or their family directly.

Yours Sincerely,

*Bernard O'Regan*

**Bernard O'Regan**  
**Assistant National Director**  
**National Disability Team**

