



Oifig an Stiúirthóir Cúnta Náisiúnta,
Foireann Míchumais Náisiúnta,
An Chéad Urlár - Oifigí 13, 14, 15,
Áras 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.

7th May 2024

Deputy Jennifer Whitmore,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: jennifer.whitmore@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Whitmore,

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: 16793/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth whether those with a disability from birth have the same qualifying criteria for access to speech and language therapies as those with an acquired disability; if not, if he will outline the different criteria for such cases; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

Disability services are provided based on the presenting needs of an individual rather than by the diagnosis of the individual, the cause of the disability, or the actual type of disability or service required. Services are provided following individual assessment according to the person's individual requirements and care needs. The role of the HSE is to provide a multi-disciplinary team approach which includes the provision of health and personal supports required by people with disabilities which may incorporate hospital, primary care and community services.

There is no separate qualifying criteria for access to disability services as services provided, including therapies, are based on the individual, assessed needs and requirements of the person with a disability rather than the cause of same.

Yours Sincerely,

Bernard O'Regan
Assistant National Director
National Disability Team

