



Ceannasaí Seirbhíse do
Dhaoine Faoi Mhíchumas

Campas Gnó Shoid,
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13th February 2024

Ms. Louise O'Reilly TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Email: louise.oreilly@oireachtas.ie

PQ 5000/24 *"To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if he is aware that in 2023 children in CHO9 were assessed as part of the assessment of need and or autism diagnostic observation schedule process by a clinician not qualified to conduct such assessment; if he has received a report from the HSE into this matter; if he can provide details of mitigation measures in place to ensure that this cannot be allowed to happen again; and if he will make a statement on the matter."* **Louise O'Reilly, TD**

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

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

Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC) is not aware of assessments outsourced to private providers employing unqualified clinicians as part of the assessment of need (AON) and or autism diagnostic observation schedule process in 2023.

CHO DNCC AON Service has robust governance structures in place to ensure assessment reports returned are compliant with current legislation. This is an established process to guarantee the quality of assessment reports and to support clinicians conducting assessments.

In November 2023, CHO DNC AON governance team identified concerns in some reports returned from one private provider who had engaged a new clinician. The governance team actively engaged with the provider during this period. All families affected at the time were contacted and with agreement reallocated to alternative providers.

I trust this information clarifies this matter for you.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Olive Hanley
Head of Service for Disability