



Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Seirbhísí 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 Head of Operations,
National Disability Services
First Floor- Offices 13, 14, 15
Roselawn House, University Business Complex,
National Technology Park,
Castletroy,

5th March 2024

Deputy Duncan Smith,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: duncan.smith@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Smith,

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: 5991/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth for an update following the commitment by the Minister of State at the Department of Health to cover assessments of needs for children with disabilities due to the continued delay of the six planned regional assessment teams; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

Assessment of Need Administrative Hubs

The HSE has developed AON Administrative Hubs in five CHO Areas and established AON Assessment Hubs in three other CHO Areas. Under the *Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023-2026, Disability Services for Children and Young People*, these AON Hubs will be amalgamated into 6 AON Assessment Hubs aligned to the 6 Regional Health Areas.

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

