



Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

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26th January 2024

Deputy Mark Ward,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: mark.ward@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Ward,

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 56803/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of young people who have had reassessments for autism spectrum disorder in children's disability network teams, by year since 2020; the reason for reassessment; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

Children's disability services are provided based on the presenting needs of the child rather than by their diagnosis or the actual type of disability or service required. Services are provided following individual assessment according to the child's individual requirements and support needs.

In respect of those children applying for an Assessment under the Disability Act 2005, the aim of an Assessment of Need under the Disability Act, is to identify whether a person has a disability, the nature and extent of the disability, any health and education needs arising from that disability, as well as what services are required to meet those needs.

The HSE records data, pertaining to the assessment of need process, under the Disability Act, 2005.

The numbers of applications for AON under the Act have risen steadily since its implementation in June 2007. 7,612 applications for AON were received in the most recent 4 quarters (Q3, 2022 – Q2 2023). This was the highest number of applications received in any 12 month period since Part 2 of the Act was commenced in June 2007 and represents a 23% increase on the number of AON applications received in the previous 12 months. The specific detail regarding ASD assessments or reassessment is not collated. Reassessment is completed by the team with parental consent as clinically indicated for example where there is a material change.



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

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

