



**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,  
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National Technology Park,  
Castletroy,  
Limerick.

14<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Deputy Paul Murphy,  
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Dublin 2.  
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## **DRAFT**

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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: 25239/24**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth how a parent would get an appropriate handwriting assessment for a child with dyspraxia that would be accepted by a school in order to recognise that they need to use a laptop in primary school.*

## **HSE Response**

The National Policy on Access to Services for Children & Young People with Disability & Developmental Delay ensures that children are directed to the appropriate service based on the complexity of their presenting needs i.e. Primary Care for non-complex functional difficulties and Children's Disability Network Teams for complex functional difficulties. Children may access supports from a Children's Disability Network Team or from Primary Care depending on the complexity of their needs.

Handwriting is a complex skill that requires postural control, fine motor skills, visual perceptual skills and motor planning. In Primary School, children learn how to form letters in print and cursive, develop pencil control, spatially organise their written work and become skilled in using handwriting to demonstrate their learning.

The child with dyspraxia may be attending Primary Care services. The child would be attending a CDNT only where their dyspraxia is causing highly significant difficulties or if the child also has other complex issues.

If a parent/carer has concerns regarding their child's handwriting, an Occupational Therapy assessment may be required.



With regard to this query, it is also suggested that the Department of Education and NCSE should be asked to specify the handwriting assessment they would accept.

It is important to note that if the parents choose to go privately for an assessment, they should look on the AOTI website for a CORU registered and suitably experienced OT.

Yours Sincerely,

*Bernard O'Regan*

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

