



3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024

Mr. Jim O'Callaghan, TD,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

Email: [jim.ocallaghan@oireachtas.ie](mailto:jim.ocallaghan@oireachtas.ie)

**PQ 10147/24** "To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth to provide, in tabular form, the number of children waiting on an assessment of needs in CHO9; the estimated wait time before they receive an assessment; and if he will make a statement on the matter" **Jim O'Callaghan, TD**

Dear Deputy O'Callaghan,

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.

The Assessment of Need (AON) office in Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC) is experiencing significant challenges in relation to applications. CHO DNCC continues to receive one of the highest levels of new applications for AON nationally. In March, a High Court ruling has stated the Preliminary Team Assessment (PTA) approach does not meet the requirements of the Disability Act 2005.

The information provided in the table below shows the number of assessments that are outstanding and is accurate as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. Outstanding assessments are at various stages of the AON process.

CHO DNCC	End of March 2024
Preliminary Team Assessments (PTA'S) to be reassessed	1,457
Standard Applications Outstanding	3,756
<b>Total:</b>	<b>5,213</b>

The ability to carry out assessments in CHO DNCC is currently limited to an average of 150 assessments every month.

The CDNTs are experiencing a number of challenges, in particular recruitment and retention of key health services staff including psychologists, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, dieticians and physiotherapists among others. Unfortunately, there are more positions vacant than qualified staff available nationally and internationally. CHO DNCC is experiencing vacancies ranging from 20-50% across the 12 CDNTs.

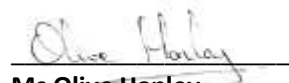
CHO DNCC Disability Services in conjunction with all lead agencies in the area continue to try and increase capacity within our CDNTs. There are ongoing local and international recruitment campaigns for

all staff grades. Coupled with this Disability Services CHO DNCC endeavour to identify any additional capacity for assessments that may be available within the private market.

Regretfully, the challenges outlined resulted in the commencement of applications in CHO DNCC is currently delayed. I understand that each parent's priority is for their child and I empathise with the frustrations of families as they await an assessment. The AON office in CHO DNCC may be contacted by email at [aon.dncc@hse.ie](mailto:aon.dncc@hse.ie) or by phone on 01 795 7948 if parents have any queries or wish to discuss their child's case further.

I trust this information clarifies this matter for you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Olive Hanley", is written over a horizontal line.

**Ms Olive Hanley**  
**Head of Service for Disability**