



Cnoc Na Rí
St. Patricks Campus
Cashel
Co. Tipperary
E25 DX72

Telephone: 353 62 27967

25th September 2024

Ms. Jennifer Murnane O'Connor TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 36559/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of children and young persons on waiting list for assessment of needs in CHO5, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Murnane O'Connor,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.

There are no applicants (children) on a waiting list for commencement of their Assessment of Need (AON) application. All completed applications under AON commence within one week of being received in the AON department.

The following table sets out the number of applicants overdue to start Stage II under AON (stage II is when the Assessment Officer (AO) requests their assessment from Primary Care/Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT)/CAMHS once deemed eligible under the Disability Act 2005):

County	No. of applicants over due to start Stage II
Carlow/Kilkenny	41
Waterford	55
Wexford	61
South Tipperary	32
Total	189

The following table sets out the number of applicants waiting for their Assessment Report (AR) to be written up (after assessment has been completed):

County	No. of applicants waiting Assessment Report
Carlow/Kilkenny	139
Waterford	138
Wexford	272
South Tipperary	133
Total	682

The demand for AONs under the Disability Act, 2005 has increased significantly in recent years. Waiting lists are growing as demand outstrips system capacity.

A new waiting list initiative with a total fund of €6.9m will target those families waiting longest for AONs, with the HSE reimbursing clinicians directly through the procurement of capacity from approved private providers. This provides a more equitable and fair approach rather than reimbursement of parents directly.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Ms. Paula Dwan
General Manager for Children's Disability Services
South East Community Healthcare