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23rd April 2025

Deputy Timmy Dooley
8 Mill Road
Ennis
Co. Clare

Re: PQ 14986/25 - "To ask the Minister for Health since the introduction of the National Access Policy in 2022, the number of children placed on the waiting list for autism assessment by a Primary Care Team in Co. Clare; and if she will make a statement on the matter".

Dear Deputy Dooley,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your parliamentary question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Since the implementation of the National Access Policy (NAP) in June 2022, 157 children (who are currently accessing Primary Care Services) have been identified as requiring or potentially requiring an autism assessment.

The names of these children were added to the Primary Care Autism Assessment Register by a Clinician attached to Primary Care, with parental consent and in the knowledge that the service has yet to be developed within Primary Care.

All of the children added to the Primary Care Autism Assessment Register continue to access clinically appropriate interventions delivered by Primary Care (i.e. Psychology, Occupational Therapy, Speech & Language Therapy, Physiotherapy and Dietetics) to support their identified health care needs.

I trust the above information addresses the issues raised in your representation.

Yours sincerely,

Carmel McLaughlin
General Manager
Primary Care