



Office of the Head of Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare
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9th May 2025

Mr. Peter Chap Cleere TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin

PQ 21613/25

To ask the Minister for Health:

The number of children currently awaiting autism assessment through primary care in Kilkenny and Carlow at present.

PQ 21614/25

To ask the Minister for Health:

The average waiting time for children awaiting autism assessment through primary care in Kilkenny and Carlow at present.

PQ 21615/25

To ask the Minister for Health:

If plans are in place to reduce the waiting time families are experiencing for children awaiting autism assessment through primary care in Kilkenny and Carlow at present. (Deputy P. Cleere)

Dear Deputy Cleere,

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

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

I can confirm that there are currently 332 children/young people from Carlow/Kilkenny (Networks 1, 2 and 3) awaiting an Autism Assessment with the Three Rivers Primary Care Autism Assessment Team (PCAAT).

The current waiting time for a child or a young person to be seen for an Autism assessment in Carlow, Kilkenny and South Tipperary is approximately 55 months.

Staff in both general Primary Care services and in the Primary Care Autism Assessment Team (PCAAT) are working to capacity to provide screening, assessment and intervention for children and young people who are autistic or where this is a clinical query. However the level of clinical demand far outweighs our capacity to respond and waiting lists are growing rapidly as a result.

The HSE acknowledges that current waiting times for assessment are stressful for children and their families. The Primary Care Autism Assessment Team continues to address the waiting list in chronological order.

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

Yours sincerely,

Tara Hunt
A/Head of Service-Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare