



**Ceannasai na Seirbhísi Curam  
Michumais - Lár na Tíre**

**FSS Bhaile Átha Cliath agus Lár na Tíre**

Ionad Sláinte, An Mhí Bóthar Ard, An  
Tulaigh Mhóir, Co. Uíbh Fhailí. R35 HP73

**General Manager of Disability Services –  
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17<sup>th</sup> February, 2025

Mr Micheál Carrigy TD  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**Re : PQ ref 2619/25**

**To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the initiative her Department has undertaken to recruit medical professionals to carry out assessment of needs in the Longford area; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Carrigy,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for response. I have examined the matter and outlined the position as follows.

There are currently no children in Longford awaiting Assessment of Need. AON applications received are processed within a week and referred for assessment. When the Assessment Officer is satisfied that there is a query of a significant disability or risk of same a referral is made for assessment to the appropriate service.

I can confirm that 142 Assessment of Need (AoN) applications were received in 2024 for the Longford / Westmeath Area. Of those eight-two (82) final reports were issued and sixty (60) are in the process of being completed with final reports to issue in the coming weeks to families.

The CDNT Longford and Central Westmeath currently has 3.9 WTE (Whole Time Equivalent) vacant positions within the resources available to the team. The HSE continues to strive to fill vacant posts, however it is not possible to provide a timeframe when they will be filled as this is dependent on a number of factors including actual panels for a profession being in place, individuals on a panel being interested in taking up a post etc.

Finally, I wish to clarify that an Assessment of Need is not required to access health services. The aim of an Assessment of Need is to identify whether a person has a disability, the nature and extent of the disability, any health and education needs arising from that disability, and what services are required to meet those needs.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

**Elaine Mulvihill**  
**General Manager, Midlands Disability Services**