



Oifig an Stiúrthóir Cúnta Náisiúnta,
Foireann Míchumais Náisiúnta, An Chéad
Urlár - Oifigí 13, 14, 15, Áras Phlásóg na Rós,
Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile, Páirc
Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta, Caladh an
Treoigh, Luimneach

Office of the Assistant National
Director, National Disability Team,
First Floor- Offices 13, 14, 15,
Roselawn House, University Business
Complex, National Technology Park,
Castletroy, Limerick.

16th July 2025

Deputy Donna McGettigan,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: donna.mcgettigan@oireachtas.ie

PQ: 35475/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality if an NTPF type scheme exists for those waiting for an assessment of needs; the way they can apply; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy McGettigan,

Thank you for your Parliamentary Question referenced above, which has been forwarded to me for direct reply.

All aspects of the Assessment of Need process must be performed within the AON legislation.

There are two aspects to Assessment of Need. The administrative process (Assessment of Need Officer) and the clinical aspect (assessment undertaken by Clinicians).

It is the Assessment of Need Officer, appointed by the HSE, who coordinates and arranges Assessments of Need as required under Part 2 of the Disability Act (2005).

It is the Assessment Officer's role to ensure that all assessors are:

- Informed of the names of any other assessors who have received requests to assess the child or young person.
- Are aware of their obligations under the iHIQA Standard No. 5 to carry out the assessments in a co-ordinated manner in order to accurately identify the needs of the child /young person and to agree prioritisation of health needs.

In the event of an assessment being requested from a private assessor, local procedures for approval will be adhered to.

As outlined above, it is the responsibility of the HSE Assessment Officer to ensure that the assessor is appropriately qualified and that the assessment meets the iHIQA standards. This will be verified in consultation with the relevant HSE Head of Discipline.

In validating the capacity of private practitioners to meet the standards, Heads of Discipline will include the following:

- Registration with appropriate professional bodies
- Familiarity with the standards
- Experience and knowledge relevant to the presenting needs of the child

When securing private assessments, each Healthcare Area will ensure compliance with procurement regulations and will ensure that appropriate indemnities are in place.

Privately commissioned reports for AON are reviewed by an appropriately qualified clinician at local level to ensure they meet adequate governance standards.



All Assessment Reports must meet the iHIQA standards and be carried out in accordance with the Disability Act 2005 and the HSE SOP.

The NTPF is a corporate body with functions and responsibilities as set out under Statutory Instrument 179 - National Treatment Purchase Fund (Establishment) Order, 2004 and the Nursing Homes Support Scheme Act (2009).

The National Treatment Purchase Fund is tasked primarily with reducing waiting times for inpatient/day case treatment and does not have statutory remit to arrange or fund any non-hospital services, including assessments of need for children with disabilities. The NTPF primarily operates in an acute setting.

The Regional Healthcare Areas have not outsourced Assessment of Need under the Disability Act to the National Treatment Purchase Fund. The NTPF does not have interaction with any disability services in terms of collecting or collating disability/community services waiting list information or providing funding for any autism/disability assessments or services.

Yours Sincerely,

Tom McGuirk,
General Manager, Disability Services, Access & Integration