



Oifig an Cheannasaí Seirbhíse
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FSS an Iarthar Láir,
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30th July 2025

Deputy Alan Kelly
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Email: alankelly@Oireachtas.ie

Re: PQ 41334/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the number of children referred for an autism spectrum disorder assessment to St. Gabriel's South City CDNT in Limerick through either the children's services disability form or through the Assessment of Need (AON) process in each of the years 2022 to 2024 and to-date in 2025, in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Kelly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question that you submitted to the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

St. Gabriel's South City Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) provide services to children and young people with complex needs arising from a disability, in-line with Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People and the National Policy on Access to Services for Children & Young People with Disability & Developmental Delay. The service is needs led rather than diagnosis led. We currently do not track the number of children or young people referred with a query around autism. Children and young people are added to the autism assessment waiting list once the family consent to this at an initial contact appointment with the team. A child/young person is added to the waiting list based on their original date of referral.

The total number of referrals to the South City CDNT (including AON) is outlined in the below table.

Year	Number of Referrals
2023	156
2024	171
2025 (to date)	99



The total number of children/young people on the autism assessment waiting list (including AON) is outlined in the table below. The figures do not include children or young people on our overall waiting list who have not been seen to date.

Year	Autism Waiting List numbers
2023 (December)	73
2024 (December)	67
2025 (July)	33

I trust this clarifies the situation, but should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mary O'Malley
Head of Service
Disability Services, HSE Mid West