



5th August 2025

Mr. Michael Cahill, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 41373/25

“To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the reason children with autism spectrum disorder in County Kerry no longer receive the previously standard six-week block of speech and language therapy per year; and whether this level of support will be reinstated locally given the impact on early development.”

Dear Deputy Cahill,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to respond to your parliamentary question submitted to the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality.

Children with autistic spectrum disorders access supports from either Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) or from Primary Care depending on the complexity of their presenting needs. CDNTs provide interdisciplinary supports for children with complex disability needs. Primary care provide supports for children with less complex needs.

Many children with autistic spectrum disorders require speech and language therapy support. This is available from both primary care and CDNTs. The quantum and type of support required by any child attending primary care or CDNT speech and language therapy (SLT) service will depend on each child's individual needs. There has never been an agreed standard of one six week block of speech and language therapy per year for children with any type of SLT needs.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Yours sincerely,



**Ms. Angela O'Neill,
Head of Disability Services,
HSE South West.**