



13th August 2025

Mr. Liam Quaide, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 43410/25

“To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the total cost of assessments of needs commissioned by the HSE, per each respective provider, in each of the years 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 to date, in the south west region; and the most expensive assessment of need, per each respective provider, in the same years.; and if she will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Quaide,

The HSE South West Children’s Disability Services has been requested to respond to your parliamentary question submitted to the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality.

Assessment of Need for people born on or after 1st June 2002 is provided for under the Disability Act, 2005. The Act sets out the requirement that AON applications be responded to and finalised (through completion of an assessment and issuance of an AON report) within a 6-month timeline.

AON Core Activity Volumes:

The most recent validated data is the Q2 2025 Assessment of Need Management Report.

As per Table 1 below, the number of AON applications received has greatly increased in recent years. This increased demand is evident in all parts of the country.



Table 1: Applications Received

	<i>Assessment of Need - Applications received</i>															
HSE South West	2022				2023				2024				2025			
Area	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Total per quarter	154	165	182	182	253	261	254	286	371	556	353	436	562	625	0	0
Total Per Year/ YTD				683				1054				1716				1187

Additional Initiatives:

Notwithstanding this increased demand, HSE South West has progressed a number of waiting list initiatives to improve our compliance with the legislative timeframes for AON. We have engaged with private providers to procure additional clinical assessments for ASD. Funding was allocated by the Department of Children; Equality; Disability; Integration & Youth for this initiative.

As a result of this waiting list initiative, HSE South West Disability Services significantly increased the number of assessments completed in 2024 and 2025 as detailed in table 2.

Table 2: Reports Completed

	<i>Assessment of Need - Total Number of Reports Completed</i>															
HSE South West	2022				2023				2024				2025			
Area	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Total per quarter	294	161	157	129	137	199	200	219	247	241	246	241	215	307	0	0
Total per year/ YTD				741				755				975				522

Current Waiting List Numbers:

Despite the increased volume of assessments completed, due to the greatly increased number of applications received the number of overdue assessments also increased, 1359 at Q2 2025 (Table 3).

Of note, the number of overdue assessments is significantly higher in several other areas of the country despite HSE South West having a large proportion of the population.



Table 3: Overdue for Completion

Assessment of Need - Overdue*												
HSE South West	2023				2024				2025			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Total per quarter/YTD	812	800	771	796	808	857	967	1158	1295	1359	0	0
* Overdue to commence (Stage 1) plus overdue for completion (Stage 2)												

Based on the provision of 80 assessments a month the timeline for completion of an assessment is 12 months from date of application. With an increased number of assessments for 2025 we envisaged that the timeline would be reduced to 9 months. This projected timeline was based on the number of applications received remaining in line with figures of on average 100 applications per month as in Q3/ Q4 2024. You will see from table 3 above this figure has been well exceeded in Q1 and Q2 of 2025.

Service arrangements are in place with service providers conducting assessments on behalf of HSE South West Disability Services. Service provider negotiated pricing structures are commercially sensitive and would potentially provide an unfair commercial advantage if made publically available.

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

Yours sincerely,

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