



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
Treigh, 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.

14th July 2025

Deputy Claire Kerrane,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: claire.kerrane@oireachtas.ie

PQ: 34611/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality to provide an update on the roll out of regional assessment hubs; the location and status of each; details of who will be working out of these hubs, and their roles; the completion date for roll out, as per location; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Kerrane,

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

In 2023, on foot of a direct request from the Minister of State for Disabilities, a number of Assessment of Need Administrative Hubs and Assessment Hubs were established in the CHO Areas.

The HSE developed AON Administrative Hubs in Community Healthcare Areas (CHOs) 1, 4, 5, 7, 8 and established AON Assessment Hubs in CHOs 3, 6 and 9.

In general, AON Administration Hubs aim to provide a single point for receipt of all AON Applications, and allocation to Assessment Officers, to reduce any bottle necks and ensure spread of demand on Assessment Officers across all available resources.

The HSE's Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023 – 2026, Disability Services for Children and Young People is a targeted Service Improvement Programme to achieve a quality, accessible, equitable and timely service for all children with complex needs as a result of a disability and their families.

The Roadmap, has four Working Groups which report into a Service Improvement Programme Board every month which in turn reports to the Roadmap Oversight Group which was chaired by the Minister of State.

Working Group 2: **Service Access and Improvement** – has responsibility for Waitlist Management and Services; Optimising Teams Efficiencies, Effectiveness and Governance; AONs overdue for completion; and the development of a National Capital plan to enable all staff of a CDNT to be co-located.

Under Action 2.19 of the Roadmap: The HSE will complete the establishment of six Assessment of Need Hubs to align with the Health Regions to be established under Slaintecare.

In 2025, National Children's Disability Services is working with the Health Regions to review these structures, scope, memberships, and processes, and to make recommendations to the REOs for the development of a standardised approach that would amalgamate the existing Hubs into 6 AON Assessment Hubs aligned to the 6 Regional Health Areas.

The 5 AON Administrative Hubs and 3 AON Assessment Hubs that have been established, will inform the core of a service improvement plan that will also include increased learning and support for staff involved in AON. Improvements will include:-



- Single point of contact for families and other services, allowing better awareness and appropriate signposting/diversion;
- Increases in efficiency and speed of assessment;
- Ability to review all referrals in the one process, and ensure clear chronological order for starting process in line with HSE SOP;
- Better communication amongst Assessment Officers, and other staff, including updates in practice due to legal cases;
- Better sharing of knowledge and experience, and support to AO – leading to more standardised and consistent approaches;
- Better tracking of referrals;
- More efficient and better data collection;
- Clinicians working directly with Assessment Officers and all clinical staff delivering AON to promote education, training, enhanced governance, clinical supervision and collective understanding across AON.

Since taking office, Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Norma Foley, and Minister of State for Disability, Hildegard Naughton, have held meetings with disability stakeholders from the HSE and Lead Agencies to better understand the challenges that face children's disability services across the country, including the current situation regarding Assessments of Need.

Yours Sincerely,

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