



**Cúram Sláinte
Phobail, Iarthar**
ag freastal ar Ghaillimh,
Maighéo agus Ros Comáin

**Community
Healthcare West**
serving Galway, Mayo
and Roscommon

Oiling an Bhainisteora Ginearálta
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18th March 2025

Rose Conway Walsh TD
Dail Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 10248/25

"To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth further to Parliamentary Question No. 124 of 25 February 2025, to provide details indicating the length of time the 175 children in Mayo have been waiting for their assessments of need, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter."

Dear Deputy Conway Walsh

I refer to PQ 10248/25 uploaded on the PAD System on the 28th February 2025 and due for response on the 21st March 2025 regarding representations that you have made to the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth in the above regard. The HSE has been requested to reply directly to you on this matter. The following response outlines the position.

I wish to advise that the number of children/young people waiting for assessment is a constantly changing figure as new applications are received daily and clinical assessments are commenced and completed on an ongoing basis. There has been a significant increase in the number of AON referrals in Mayo in the last year up from 113 in 2023 to 271 in 2024. This impacts on the length of time a child/young person is waiting for assessment under the process.

It is important to note that all referrals are dealt with in chronological order according to date received as per National Policy. The length of time it takes to complete a clinical assessment varies depending on a number of factors, for example, the type of assessment required, complexity of the child/young person's presentation, family situations etc. All AON activity is captured on the AO data base with monthly and quarterly reports being produced by the national Disability Information Unit.

The latest available data at the 19th February 2025 indicates that the number of children/young people waiting for assessment under AON in Mayo is 175. The length of time waiting is from 7 to 18 months (those waiting longest here are not technically "waiting" for assessment, the assessment is underway but as the final Assessment of Need report has not yet been produced and they appear on reports as being overdue.

I trust that this response has clarified the matter that you have raised in this instance.

Yours sincerely

Dr Aoife O'Donohue
Head of Disability Services