



Ceannasai na Seirbhísi Curam Michumais General Manager of Disability Services – Louth Meath

Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Lár Tire
An Lú, An Mhí,
Oifig Ceantair, Bóthar Cheanannais, Bhaile
Átha Fhirdia, Co. Lú

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6th May 2025

Deputy Paul Murphy, TD
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re: PQ 12141/25 - To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth to provide detailed information on applications for assessment of needs (AON) in Louth; the number of applications received; the number rejected; the number not started yet or have not received a final report; the number of occupational therapy and ASD assessments needed for the AON that were outsourced to private providers, by age group, in the past three years; and if she will make a statement on the matter – Paul Murphy

Dear Deputy Murphy,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and outlined the position as follows.

1. The number of applications received in past 3 years.

Louth AON covers North and South Louth, as well as the North Meath & Ardee Community Healthcare Networks.

Please see below for increase in application numbers for Louth & North Meath AON from 2022 – 2025 to date (15th April 2025). Louth & North Meath AON have experienced a significant increase in applications year on year and in particular from 2023 onwards.

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2022	22	22	14	7	15	17	13	22	22	32	32	26	244
2023	32	37	46	41	48	50	32	29	38	51	56	32	492
2024	57	52	58	42	80	68	58	35	76	56	68	36	686
2025	54	65	76	41									236

2. The number of applications rejected in past 3 years.

There are no figures available for Louth & North Meath AON rejected applications.

Applications are rejected in the following circumstances:

- Applicant is born before 1st June 2002.
- Application is incomplete and AON has been unsuccessful in making contact with parent/guardian/young person to provide required information (ie. consent/PPS/contact details).

Applications are closed in the following circumstances:

- Contact has been attempted at least 3 times to progress application or to seek further additional information with no response from family – application is then first put on hold and letter then sent to parent/guardian to confirm application will be closed if response is not provided within date provided on letter.
- Parent/guardian/young person has requested for application to be closed and provided written consent for same.

3. The number not started yet or have not received a final report in last 3 years.

As of 15th April 2025, in Louth & North Meath AON there are currently:

- 913 children in Stage 1 awaiting assessment of need.
- 314 children in Stage 2.

4. The number of Occupational Therapy and ASD assessments needed for the AON that were outsourced to private providers, by age group, in the past three years;

Currently Louth & North Meath AON is outsourcing the vast majority of assessments to HSE-approved private providers as two out of three CDNT's (covering North & South Louth and North Meath & Ardee) are at capacity for carrying out AON assessments.

Year	Moved to Stage 2
2022	203
2023	371
2024	161
2025 (Jan – present date)	54

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

Wanetta Duff
General Manager, Disability Services, HSE Louth Meath