



Oifig an Stiúrthoir Cúnta,
Cúram Priomhúil Rochtain agus Comhthathú,

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
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26th May 2025

Deputy Mitchell,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 22356/25 To ask the Minister for Health the efforts being made to ensure adequate auditory processing disorder assessment capacity within the HSE; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

- Denise Mitchell

Dear Deputy Mitchell,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 22356/25) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

There are no internationally agreed best practice guidelines or quality standards which provide clarity for the assessments (with normative data / clear sensitivity and specificity) and management of children with suspected Auditory Processing Disorder (APD) and there continues to be ambiguity in this area.

Based on the above the HSE currently does not provide a service (assessment / management) for patients with suspected APD, irrespective of the assessment process. In light of the possibility of language disorder being present, the HSE can refer to speech and language therapist to assess for a communication disorder with associated treatment.

Where there is likely to be a benefit the HSE can refer cases to a long-standing UK multidisciplinary service with respect to APD, via the Treatment Abroad Scheme.

The HSE can confirm that APD is one of the areas currently being reviewed as part of a Department of Health Hearing Strategy working group that is looking at options / requirements for delivering future Audiology services.

Internationally, there are still different perspectives about diagnosing and managing children when there is a concern that they may have APD. One common theme is that APD tests shouldn't be run in isolation, but as part of a multidisciplinary team, in order get a 360-degree view of each child.

I trust this is of assistance.

Seán McArt

General Manager
Primary Care Access & Integration