



Ceannasai na Seirbhísi Curam Michumais -
Lár na Tíre

FSS Bhaile Átha Cliath agus Lár na Tíre

Ionad Sláinte, An Mhí Bóthar Ard, An Tulaigh
Mhóir, Co. Uíbh Fhailí. R35 HP73

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3rd June, 2025

Mr. Brian Stanley T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ ref 22927/25

"To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth to clarify the length of the waiting list for an assessment of needs appointment in Laois for children with special needs; and if she will make a statement on the matter."

Dear Deputy Stanley,

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.

The current wait time in Laois / Offaly for a child to be actively referred for an assessment under the Assessment of Need process is sixteen (16) months from application date. This is due in the main to the significant increase in AON applications being submitted.

I wish to clarify that an Assessment of Need is not required to access health services. The aim of an Assessment of Need is to identify whether a person has a disability, the nature and extent of the disability, any health and education needs arising from that disability, and what services are required to meet those needs.

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

Elaine Mulvihill
General Manager, Midlands Disability Services