



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  
Treoigh, Luimneach

Office of the Assistant National  
Director, National Disability Team,  
First Floor- Offices 13, 14, 15,  
Roselawn House, University Business  
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Castletroy, Limerick.

04 July 2025

Deputy Liam Quaide,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
E-mail: [liam.quaide@oireachtas.ie](mailto:liam.quaide@oireachtas.ie)

**PQ: 28783/25**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the details of the ten most expensive assessments of need commissioned by the HSE for the years 2023, 2024 and to date in 2025; the name of the private organisation carrying out the assessment in each case; and the cost associated with each.*

Dear Deputy Peadar Quaide,

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

The Assessment of Need process is set out in the Disability Act, 2005. The aim of an Assessment of Need under the Disability Act 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, as well as what services are required to meet those needs. It is important that service users are aware that an AON is not required to access Primary Care, Children's Disability Services or Mental Health Services providing services including assessment, goals setting, intervention and follow up services. This direct access ensures more efficient and timely access for many families.

The Disability Act outlines the statutory timelines under which Assessments of Need under the Act must be completed. In summary, the assessment report must be completed within 6 months of the date the application was received. The HSE endeavours to meet the legislative obligations under the Act, however compliance with timeframes continues to prove difficult due to increased demand, case management complexity and access to resources.

**Additional funding**

In Q1, 2025, 1,412 AONs were completed, which is a 65% increase on the same period in 2023 of 849. This increase is due in part to the funding of €4.5m (in addition to €5m in non-core funding) that has been allocated in Budget 2025 to assist with sustainably addressing the Assessment of Need (AON) backlog. This additional funding is building on the €6.89 million allocated by the Government in 2024 for a targeted waiting list initiative that commenced end of May 2024.

Information received from the Health Regions indicates that under this targeted initiative, 3,636 AONs have been commissioned from private providers/assessors from June 2024 to March, 2025 at a cost of €12,512,952. This suggests that the average cost per AON is €3,441.



The HSE does not collate data in the manner requested. As there are a range of costs depending on complexity, the number of Health and Social Care Professionals involved and the level of input/s. For example, a unidisciplinary assessment, involving only one Health and Social Care Professional such as a Speech and Language Therapist, will have a far lower cost than a more complex multidisciplinary assessment, involving multiple Health and Social Care Professionals, such as complex ASD, ADHD, cognitive assessments.

The range and types of assessments required depend on a variety of factors including but not limited to the needs and requirements of the individual child/ young person requiring assessment

Yours Sincerely,

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Dr. Aoife O'Donohue,  
Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta Cúntóir, Seirbhísí Mhíchumas, Rochtain agus Imeascadh,  
Assistant National Director, Disability Services, Transformation & Programme Coordination,  
Access & Integration