



**19<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

Ms Grace Boland, TD,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

Email: [grace.boland@oireachtas.ie](mailto:grace.boland@oireachtas.ie)

**PQ 47288/25** - *"To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the average waiting time for children who are accepted onto the assessment of need waiting list in HA2 Swords and Balbriggan teams (Dublin north county); and if she will make a statement on the matter."* - **Grace Boland, TD**

Dear Deputy Boland,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you with information in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Assessment of Need (AON) Office assigned to Integrated Health Area Dublin North County (IHA DNC) and Integrated Health Area Dublin North City & West (IHA DNCW) manage applications for children and young person's residing in Swords and Balbriggan area networks, in addition to new referrals received from both IHA areas. The AON office is experiencing a very high volume of applications and demands for assessments continues to significantly exceed the clinical resources available to effectively carry out assessments in a timely manner. At present, this office is working through applications received in February 2024.

The HSE recognises that each parent's priority is the wellbeing of their child, and we acknowledge the frustration experienced by families awaiting assessments. It may be helpful to know an AON diagnosis is not essential for children to access Health Services. Parents are welcome to refer their child to their local Health Services by completing the attached Children's Services Referral form and returning it to [cro.dncc@hse.ie](mailto:cro.dncc@hse.ie).

Further information on making a referral to children's services can be access via the following link: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/2/primarycare/pcteams/dublin-north-city-and-county/central-referrals-office-dublin-north-city-and-county.html>.

I trust this information clarifies this matter for you

Yours sincerely,

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**Mr Enda Doody**  
**General Manager, Disability Service**  
**Integrated Health Areas of Dublin North County and Dublin North City & West**