



Oifig an Cheannasaí Seirbhíse
Seirbhísí Míchumais,
FSS an Iarthar Láir,
Teach an Phiarsaigh,
Páirc Ghnó an Ráithín,
Luimneach
V94 1R71

Office of Head of Service
Disability Services,
HSE Mid West
Pearse House,
Raheen Business Park,
Limerick
V94 1R71

midwest.hse.ie
T: 061 464061

24th October 2025

Deputy Cathal Crowe
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Email: cathal.crowe@Oireachtas.ie

Re: PQ 51828/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality

- 1. The number of children at early intervention stage who started in a primary school ASD class in the Mid-West in September 2025;*
- 2. If this number can be classified by each of the Mid-West Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNT) or area;*
- 3. The number of the children in each CDNT or area who require speech and language support;*
- 4. The number of the children in each CDNT or area are pre-verbal/non-speaking; and if she will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy Crowe,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question that you submitted to the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality; for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the answers to questions 1 to 4 above.

- 1 & 2.* We do not hold this data. The National Council Special Education (NCSE) would be the appropriate service to furnish this information.
- 3.* Children are placed on the caseload based on their goals and needs rather than the discipline of the person who may provide that support.
- 4.* We do not classify children. Data comes directly from Children's Individual Family Service Plans (IFSPs). The families' priorities identify the appropriate intervention and a child is then waitlisted according to this. The service is needs led, not deficit led. For example, many children will need communication supports, listing their verbal ability is not required.



I trust this clarifies the situation, but should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,
Mary O'Malley
Head of Service
Disability Services, HSE Mid West