



Ceann Seirbhíse, Míchumais,
Baile Átha Cliath Theas, Cill Dara & Iarthar Chill Mhantáin
– Cúram Sláinte Pobail
Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co. Chill Dara, W91 KDC2

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28 October 2020

Holly Cairns
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Ref: PQ 30350/20

“To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the backlog for assessment of need for children with a disability in the south County Kildare and west County Wicklow area; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

- **Holly Cairns TD**

Dear Deputy Cairns,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your parliamentary question you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

There is a substantial project in progress in the CHO since the beginning of this year which is targeting the complete clearance of the existing backlog of outstanding assessments as quickly as possible. Unfortunately, this process was interrupted by the COVID-19 outbreak, but has since resumed and large number of assessment have now commenced/recommended.

Significant resources have been redirected to the Assessment of Need process to address the backlog and provide appropriate assessments of need for each child as quickly as possible.

There are currently 15 teams in place to conduct assessment of need under the Disability Act 2005 with a psychologist, SLT & OT on each team. There are two sites where the assessments are being completed- Crumlin & Athy. The projected timeframe for completion is 16 weeks.

I trust the above information is of use to you and if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Deborah Jacob
Head of Service for Disabilities,
Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow Community Healthcare