

20th March 2024
Deputy Violet Anne Wynne
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Email: [Violet Anne Wynne@oireachtas.ie](mailto:Violet.Anne.Wynne@oireachtas.ie)

Re: PQ/50913/23

To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth further to Parliamentary Question No. 239 of 18 October 2023, how persons in Clare can avail of the use of time-related savings to source assessments of need privately; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Wynne

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 Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth.

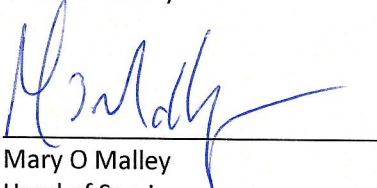
There are currently 501 children in the Mid-West awaiting Assessment of Need (AON).

In order to address the backlog and deal with the impact of the significant number of AON on the capacity of Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) to provide therapeutic intervention, the decision was taken by the Mid-West Children's Disability Networks Governance Group to develop a dedicated resource to manage AON assessments referred to all CDNTs in the Mid-West. It was agreed to allocate four new development posts to an AON Pathway Team, which is solely dedicated to the completion of AON assessments. To date, the service provider has only been in a position to recruit two of the four posts to the Mid-West AON Pathway Team.

Extraordinary funding was made available to support AON and we continue to engage with external providers to maximise their capacity to complete AON assessments. We are experiencing difficulty in accessing suitably qualified providers who can complete clinically valid assessments in the context of the requirements of the AON. We do not have access to "time related savings" for this purpose.

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
Mid-West Disability Services
HSE Mid-West Community Healthcare