



**Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,**  
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,  
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Deputy Pauline Tully,  
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Dear Deputy Tully,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary question, which was submitted to this department for response.

**PQ: 57159/23**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the timeframe within which a review should be carried out of an assessment of need; and if assessment of need reviews consists of a diagnostic assessment or if they consist purely of a desktop review.*

**HSE Response**

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.

With regard to Assessment of Need under the Disability Act 2005 Report Reviews, the relevant part of the Act states that an Assessment of Need Report must contain:

*“ (iv) a statement of the period within which a review of the assessment should be carried out”*

The Act does not specifically state that an Assessment of Need Report Review must be carried out within any particular timeframe.

If there is a material change in the AON applicants circumstances, an application should be made for a new Assessment of Need under s.9(8) of the Act. Where an Assessment of Need Report is “significantly outdated”, a new application should be made.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr Bernard O'Regan,**  
**Head of Operations - Disability Services,**  
**Community Operations**

