



Oifig an Stiúrthóir Cúnta Náisiúnta,
Foireann Míchumais Náisiúnta,
An Chéad Urlár - Oifigí 13, 14, 15,
Àras Phlásóg na Rós, Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,
Páirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta,
Caladh an Treoigh,
Luimneach.

Office of the Assistant National Director,
National Disability Team,
First Floor- Offices 13, 14, 15,
Roselawn House, University Business Complex,
National Technology Park,
Castletroy,
Limerick.

25th June 2024

Deputy Frances Noel Duffy,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: francesnoel.duffy@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Duffy,

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: 25946/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if the Government will reimbursement families who pay for private assessments after waiting three years for a suspected dyspraxia diagnosis assessment; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

Private providers are currently being contracted by the HSE and its funded agencies to provide assessments and / or interventions. In such instances, the HSE and HSE funded agencies ensure that the contracted providers are appropriately qualified and that any assessments or interventions are provided in line with the appropriate standards, appropriate procurement procedures, Garda vetting and due diligence practice.

Some families source private assessments to facilitate access to educational supports such as special schools or classes. In many cases, these are unidisciplinary assessments which are usually accepted in the education sector. In general, HSE or HSE funded services, in line with best practice guidelines, use a multidisciplinary approach to assessment, specifically to ASD assessment. In these circumstances, while HSE services may take cognisance of any unidisciplinary reports that may be available, they will undertake a multidisciplinary assessment where appropriate, to confirm a diagnosis and to determine the necessary interventions.

Targeted Initiative focused on long waiting families

A new waiting list initiative, launched in June 2024, will target those families waiting longest for AONs, with the HSE reimbursing clinicians directly through the procurement of capacity from approved private providers. This provides a more equitable and fair approach rather than reimbursement of parents directly.



All aspects of the Assessment of Need process must be operated within the AON legislation, the HSE SOP and the iHIQA standards.

As outlined above, the HSE must ensure that the contracted providers are appropriately qualified and that assessments or interventions are provided in line with the legislation, HSE SOP and the iHIQA standards.

The HSE does not fund or reimburse any fees paid to private practitioners in any of the health service areas where assessments or interventions have been commissioned by the service user or their family directly.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernard O'Regan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

Bernard O'Regan
Assistant National Director
National Disability Team

