



Ceannasaí na Seirbhísí Bunchúraim  
Cúram Sláinte Phobail, Iarthar, Ceanncheathrú N. Muire,  
Caisleán an Bharraigh, Co. Mhaigh Eo, F23 HP58.  
T. 094 9049064 / 094 9049069

**Head of Primary Care Services**  
Community Healthcare West, St. Mary's HQ, Castlebar, Co Mayo F23 HP59  
T. 094 9049064 / 094 9049069

April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Claire Kerrane  
Sinn Féin TD for Galway/Roscommon  
Bridge Street  
Ballinasloe  
Co Galway

**RE:PQ 10970/24**

**“To ask the Minister for Health if he will advise why there is no pathway available to access diagnostic assessments for autism via primary care services in County Roscommon; if he will outline what plans are being put in place to provide same going forward; and if he will make a statement on the matter”**

Dear Deputy Kerrane

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 Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position in Primary Care.

At present, assessment for autism is not currently completed within Primary Care Services in Roscommon. This is in line with the majority of Primary Care Services across the country. Traditionally in the HSE, assessment for autism took place in the context of the disability services. Since the introduction of the National Policy on Access to Services for Children & Young People with Disability & Developmental Delay, there has been a move towards some assessments for autism to be done within the Primary Care Service. This transition is at various points across primary care services in the country.

To date, staff within Roscommon Primary Care Services have undertaken preliminary training in autism assessment tools. Roscommon Primary Care Child Psychology Services are now seeking out further training opportunities for both psychologists and our multi-disciplinary colleagues to develop autism assessment skills further in order to safely introduce this new type of multi-disciplinary assessment to the service.

In the interim, additional but finite waiting list initiative funding is available to the Mayo and Roscommon Primary Care Child Psychology Services for those children waiting over one year. This funding is being used to commission autism assessments to those waiting over one year across Mayo and Roscommon.

In addition, parents have the option of applying for an Assessment of Need (AON) by contacting their local Assessment Officer, Catherine Kilkenny on 090 6638076.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely



*M Warde*

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**Mary Warde**  
**Head of Primary Care Services**  
**Galway, Mayo & Roscommon**