



**Ceannasai na Seirbhísi Curam Michumais General Manager of Disability Services – Louth Meath**

Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Lár Tire  
An Lú, An Mhí,  
Oifig Ceantair, Bóthar Cheanannais, Bhaile  
Átha Fhirdia, Co. Lú

Midlands Louth Meath Community  
Healthcare Organisation (MLM CHO)  
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22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024

Deputy Ged Nash,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2.

**Re: PQ 44395/24 - To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of children currently awaiting an assessment of need under the south Louth CDNT and north Louth CDNT; the average waiting time for an assessment of need in both CDNTs; the actions being taken to address the waiting lists; the number of children referred for an assessment of need by both CDNTs to private providers in 2023 and to date in 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter – Ged Nash**

Dear Deputy Nash,

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 outlined the position as follows.

Currently in Louth AON there are:

680 children in Stage 1 awaiting assessment of need;

365 children in Stage 2;

1045 children in total.

Currently Louth AON is working on Stage 1 applications from late 2023. At present, the statutory timeframes are not being met due to a significant increase in applications in Louth AON.

Please see below for increase in numbers for Louth AON from 2022 – 2024 to date.

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2022	22	22	14	7	15	17	13	22	22	32	32	26	244
2023	32	37	46	41	48	50	32	29	38	51	56	32	492
2024	57	52	58	42	80	68	58	35	76	56	6 (to date)		588

Louth Management have recruited extra resources to address the waiting lists, with the addition of a temporary Assessment Officer to join the permanent Assessment Officer and one admin currently in place.

The Louth AON numbers for outsourcing to private providers are as follows:

2023: 170

2024: 146

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wanetta Duff".

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**Wanetta Duff**

**General Manager, Disability Services, HSE Louth Meath CHO**