



Ceann na Seirbhíse Míchumas
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Slainte
Seirbhísi Pobaill (An Cabhán, Dún na
nGall, Liatroim, Muineachán &
Sligeach)
Áras Isacc Butt, Bealach Féich,
Tír Chonaill F93 YV9R

Head of Service Disability
HSE Community Services (Cavan,
Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan & Sligo)
The Isacc Butt Building, Ballybofey
Co. Donegal F93 YV9R
Tel+353(0)74 9189028/ 9189032
Email: Edel.Quinn@hse.ie

22nd November 2024

Ms Pauline Tully TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2
D02 XR20

Re: PQ ref 43050/24 – Assessment of Need Waitlist for Children in Counties Cavan and Monaghan

“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of children currently awaiting an assessment of need in County Cavan and County Monaghan;. The number who have been waiting less than 3 months; the number that have been waiting 3-6 months; the number that have been waiting 6-12 months; the number that have been waiting more than 12 months, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.” – Pauline Tully

Dear Deputy Tully,

I refer to your parliamentary question above which has been referred to me for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The following table outlines the number of children currently awaiting an assessment of need (AON) in County Cavan and County Monaghan.

AON Waitlist	Less than 3 Months	3 to 6 Months	6 to 12 Months	More than 12 Months	Total
Cavan	41	45	48	94	228
Monaghan	18	28	16	61	123
Total	59	73	64	155	351

Assessments of Need are primarily dealt with by Children’s Disability Network Team and Primary Care Paediatric services. Delays in assessments of need are arising due to staff vacancies in the relevant services, increased numbers of applicants requesting an Assessment of Need, the requirement to include diagnostic assessments as part of the assessment process, Assessment Officer capacity being impacted due to managing complaints and legal cases and the requirement to have the educational needs of a child included in the report which requires the Assessment Officer to secure said information from the National Council for Special Education (NCSE). Every effort is being made to address factors impacting on waiting times including active recruitment, overtime on

offer to existing staff and outsourcing of assessments to private providers. It must be stressed that an Assessment of Need is not required for children and young people to access health and social care services.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Edel Quinn
Head of Service Disability Services
Community Services Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo
Seirbhísi Pobail An Cabhán, Dún na nGall, Liatroim, Muineachán & Sligeach