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30th October 2024

Mr. Martin Browne TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 43408/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of children awaiting an assessment of need in CHO5; to provide the details in increments of three months; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Browne,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.

There are no applicants (children) on a waiting list for commencement of their Assessment of Need (AON) application. All completed applications under AON commence within one week of being received in the AON department.

The table below sets out the number of applicants overdue to start Stage II under AON (stage II is when the Assessment Officer (AO) requests their assessment from Primary Care/Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT)/CAMHS once deemed eligible under the Disability Act 2005):

County	No. of applicants over due to start Stage II
Carlow/Kilkenny	24
Waterford	34
Wexford	48
South Tipperary	16
Total	122

The table below sets out the number of applicants waiting for their Assessment Report (AR) to be written up (after assessment has been completed):

County	No. of applicants waiting Assessment Report
Carlow/Kilkenny	147
Waterford	129
Wexford	263
South Tipperary	130
Total	669

The demand for AONs under the Disability Act, 2005 has increased significantly in recent years. Waiting lists are growing as demand outstrips system capacity.

A new waiting list initiative with a total fund of €6.9m 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.

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

Yours sincerely,



Ms. Paula Dwan
General Manager for Children's Disability Services
South East Community Healthcare