



Oifig an Stiúirthóir 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.

13th September 2024

Deputy Pauline Tully,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: pauline.tully@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Tully,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary question³, which were submitted to this department for response.

PQ: 34624/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if action 2.20 of the Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023-2026 has been implemented; and if so, if he will detail the outcomes.

PQ: 34625/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth for an update on the consultation that was carried out in line with action 2.21 of the Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023-2026.

PQ: 34626/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if a task group was established in line with action 2.22 of the Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023-2026; to detail the membership of this task group; and the actions the group has taken to address outstanding clinical issues for assessment and intervention.

PQ: 34627/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth to detail the assessment of need target that was set out in each CHO, in line with action 2.23 of the Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023-2026; and if these targets were achieved within the timeframe set.



HSE Response

Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023 – 2026, Disability Services for Children and Young People

The HSE's Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023 – 2026, Disability Services for Children and Young People, approved by the HSE Board and launched by the Government and the HSE in October 2023 is a targeted Service Improvement Programme to achieve a quality, accessible, equitable and timely service for all children with complex needs as a result of a disability and their families.

It sets out the overall aim for Children's Disability Services, provided by the HSE and its partner agencies, for every child to have a childhood of inclusive experiences where they can have fun, learn, develop interests and skills, and form positive relationships with others in a range of different settings.

The Roadmap commenced implementation with the establishment of the Service Improvement Programme Board in February, followed with four Working Groups in March. Each group meets monthly and reports into the monthly a Service Improvement Programme Board every month which in turn reports to the Roadmap Oversight Group chaired by the Minister of State, Anne Rabbitte.

The Roadmap contains 60 actions Some actions are completed and the majority of remaining actions are in train. These include a robust suite of 21 staff retention and recruitment actions

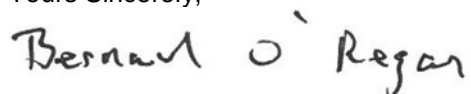
With regard to the questions asked, please see the table below.

2.20	The tender process concluded in Feb'24 with a small number of successful applications, and limited additional capacity. Discussions are ongoing with Procurement on other options available whilst CHOs continue local procurement of private AONs.
2.21	DCEDIY led its 2nd of 4 workshops on Apr 29th including reps of CDNMs, HSE Heads of Disabilities, Chief Officers, Assessment Officers, Liaison Officers, National Disabilities, PHN and Dept of Ed to explore the drivers of AON (Education, staffing gaps and waiting lists), Communications, Good practice CDNT service models, and variance of AON demand nationally.
2.22	Task Group has commenced to review any outstanding issues for assessment following launch of the Interim Clinical Guidance on AON with submission for CCO approval target by Aug 2024.
2.23	Whilst CHOs, teams, lead agencies and private providers continue to address AON demand as a legislative priority, monthly AON targets to achieve the end target identified in the Roadmap will be included in each CHO's Service Improvement Plan

With regard to Assessment of Need, in the first half of this year, 1,841 AONs have been completed, which is a 28% increase on the same period last year. This increase is due in part to the new targeted waiting list initiative that commenced end of May 2024, where the Government allocated funding of €6.89 million to facilitate the HSE to procure up to 2,500 additional AONs, with delivery targeted over the next 6 months. This waiting list initiative is targeting those families waiting longest for AONs and Information received from the CHO Areas indicates that under this targeted initiative, 379 AONs were commissioned from private providers/assessors during the month of June at a total cost of €1,245,455.

The HSE is fully committed to the delivery of the Roadmap actions over the lifetime of the plan.

Yours Sincerely,



Bernard O'Regan
Assistant National Director, National Disability Team

