

22nd January 2025

Mr. Pa Daly, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 1886/25

“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if assessments of need in CHO4 are carried out by HSE staff or are outsourced to private clinicians; and, if the latter, to provide details of funding for this service.”

Dear Deputy Daly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth for response.

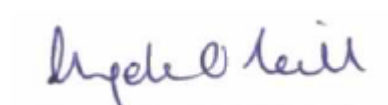
The procedure for an Assessment of Need is set out in Part 2 of the Disability Act (2005). The Act requires the HSE to authorise a cohort of its employees as “assessment officers” who are tasked with completing Assessments of Need under the Act.

At Stage 2 of the Assessment of Need process, assessment officers may refer an applicant for a clinical assessment as appropriate. This may include referrals to Children’s Disability Network Teams, Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services, Primary Care Services or in certain circumstances private providers. Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services and Primary Care Services are delivered by HSE staff. In this region, Children’s Disability Network Team services are delivered by employees of Section 38 and Section 39 providers.

In 2024, government funding was allocated for a waiting list initiative to address overdue Assessments of Need. €554,033 was allocated to Cork & Kerry. This funding allowed us to procure Autism Spectrum Disorder assessments from private providers. In 2025, this region has been allocated €404,000 for a further AON waiting list initiative.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Angela O'Neill", is centered on the page.

Angela O'Neill
Head of Disability Services
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare

