



28th February 2024

Mr Paul Donnelly TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Email: paul.donnelly@oireachtas.ie

PQ 49295/23 “To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the current caseload for Blanchardstown CDNT as of 31 October 2023; how many children are receiving services; and how many children are still on the waiting list.” **Paul Donnelly, TD**

Dear Deputy Donnelly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you with information in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The following information in regards to Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC) Blanchardstown Children’s Disability Network Team (CDNT) is the latest data and accurate as of 31st January 2024.

Blanchardstown CDNT	
Number of Children on the Active Caseload:	361
Number of Children on the waiting list:	166

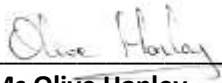
Since the CDNTs were established in CHO DNCC, there have been some noticeable improvements evident in the level of service provided to children with disabilities and their families. There has been an increase in the number of children receiving services from the 12 CDNTs across CHO DNCC.

The CDNTs are experiencing a number of challenges, in particular recruitment and retention of key health services staff. Unfortunately, there are more positions vacant than qualified staff available nationally and internationally. CHO DNCC is experiencing vacancies ranging from 20-50% across the 12 CDNTs.

I want to assure you that we are constantly working to improve the waiting time for the service and every effort is being made to address this matter. CHO DNCC Disability Services in conjunction with all lead agencies in the area continue to try and increase capacity within our CDNTs. There are ongoing local and international recruitment campaigns for all staff grades. Coupled with this Disability Services CHO DNCC endeavor to identify any additional capacity for assessments that may be available within the private market.

I trust this information clarifies this matter for you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Olive Hanley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Ms Olive Hanley
Head of Service for Disability