



26th October 2022

Mr Gary Gannon, TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Email: gary.gannon@oireachtas.ie

PQ 49658/22 "To ask the Minister for Health the details of the current 12 month wait times for each children's disability network team in CHO9 that is, the number of children that are waiting for one, two, three, four and five plus years." **Gary Gannon, TD**

Dear Deputy Gannon,

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

There are 12 Children's Disability Network Teams in Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC). I may advise the following information on waiting times per team are as follows:

Children Disability Network Team	0-1 Years	1-2 Years	2-3 Years	3-4 Years	4-5 Years	5+ Years
North Inner City	27	44	1	0	0	0
Finglas	76	99	62	58	33	7
Clontarf	34	52	20	4	1	1
Swords	79	75	71	125	29	0
Balbriggan	104	191	95	89	85	7
Blanchardstown	43	55	52	39	0	0
Blakestown	73	115	90	78	51	36
Cabra	39	45	64	47	32	6
Coastal	27	33	15	0	0	0
Coolock	39	50	48	27	0	0
Ballymun	45	57	2	0	0	0
Kilbarrack	79	67	68	54	5	0

CHO DNCC Disability Services have significant concerns regarding our current waiting lists for some CDNT services. We are constantly exploring all options available to us to address these waiting lists to improve the access to services for children and their families. We are acutely aware of the high demand for services in our CHO area. This demand for services is caused by a number of factors, including but not limited to significant population growth coupled with some vulnerable population groups and areas of deprivation.

At present the average vacancy rate across CDNTs in Dublin North City and County is almost 40%. All lead agencies are working to address this skills shortage through video and linked-in campaigns, overseas recruitment and initiatives with training colleges.

Disability Services is a highly regulated sector, with services required to comply with legislative obligations as well as numerous policy documents which require implementation. CDNTs are mandated to comply with the provisions of the Disability Act 2005 and this must be their priority when providing services.

Concurrently I, as, Head of Service Disability chair a CHO DNCC Governance Group overseeing CDNTs, and this group is exploring if there are any alternative staff grades or qualifications which may assist staff in CDNTs whilst they navigate the significant change within service delivery. The level of staff vacancies is not easily resolved as there are essentially more posts for Allied Health Professionals than qualified staff available nationally. We are currently developing a targeted international recruitment campaign which we hope to launch within the next month for all staff grades within the CDNT. We have also increased the level of administrative support to these teams. The teams are also experiencing high levels of maternity leave. In this regard and in an effort to mitigate the risk, I have agreed with the CEOs of the Lead Agencies to approve the backfill of maternity leave which is not resourced within the allocated budget and Inter Agency Agreement for delivery of children's services in CDNTs.

I assure you that we are continuing to work towards improved access to services with a focus on rolling out universal and targeted care pathways for children and families on waiting lists.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

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

Ms Olive Hanley
Head of Service for Disability