



20th February 2024

Ms. Brid Smith TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 54198/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of children currently on the waiting list to be seen by the Children's Disability Network team in counties Carlow and Kilkenny' the length of time they have been waiting; the number of vacancies on the CDNT currently; if the recent HSE staff embargo means that these vacancies are not being advertised to be filled and/or will not be filled until the embargo is lifted; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Smith,

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.

The following table outlines the number of children on the waiting list to be seen by the CDNTs in Carlow and Kilkenny including the approximate length of time they have been waiting as of 18th December 2023:

CDNT	No. of Children currently on the waiting list	Approx. length of time waiting
CDNT – Network 1 Carlow	341	268 waiting over 12 months 35 waiting 7 to 12 months 22 waiting 4 to 6 months 16 waiting 0 to 3 months
CDNT – Network 2 Thomastown	128	97 waiting over 12 months 18 waiting 7 to 12 months 9 waiting 4 to 6 months 4 waiting 0 to 3 months
CDNT – Network 3 Kilkenny (Enable Ireland)	64	39 waiting over 12 months 16 waiting seven to 12 months 8 waiting 4 to six months 1 waiting 0 to 3 months



The following table sets out the number of vacancies on CDNT Network 1 Carlow as of 18th December 2023:

Vacancy	WTE
Senior Speech & Language Therapist	2.1
Senior Medical Social Worker	1.0
Clinical Psychologist	2.0
Speech & Language Therapist	2.0
Occupational Therapist	1.5
Senior Occupational Therapist	4.0
Senior Clinical Psychologist	1.5
Senior Physiotherapist	1.0
Total	15.1 WTE

The following table sets out the number of vacancies on CDNT Network 2 Thomastown as of 18th December 2023:

Vacancy	WTE
Speech & Language Therapist	1.0
Occupational Therapist	1.0
Total	2.0 WTE

The following table sets out the number of vacancies on CDNT Network 3 Kilkenny Enable Ireland as of 18th December 2023:

Vacancy	WTE
Occupational Therapist	1.0
Total	1.0 WTE

In relation to the recent HSE staff embargo, under the current embargo HSE Disability Services have an agreed process in place with HSE National Office whereby they can apply for a derogation on specific critical posts to be advertised and filled. Once HSE National Office has approved these posts for filling, posts can be advertised and recruited. This is an ongoing process. HST National Office have committed to providing a decision to local HSE on the derogations requested within five working days of receipt of the application.



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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Karen Fitzgerald'.

Karen Fitzgerald
A/Head of Service – Disability Services
South East Community Healthcare