



Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

Office of the Head of Operations,
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29th November 2023

Deputy Paul Murphy,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: paul.murphy@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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

PQ: 51316/22

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of staff at the end of each month for all the CDNTs nationwide from January 2022 to April 2023; the number of allocated positions; the number of vacant posts; the number of staff on leave that is, maternity, parental and so on; the caseload; the number of individuals open and/or active; the number of individuals waitlisted, subcategorized into the number waiting longer than three, six and 12 months; the health and safety metrics; the number of complaints filed; the AIM support metrics; the number of administrative staff versus therapeutic staff; the total number of individuals awaiting contact; the number of individuals awaiting assessment; and the number of individuals awaiting therapeutic services, in tabular form.

HSE Response

91 Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) are aligned to 96 Community Healthcare Networks (CHNs) across the country and are providing services and supports for children aged from birth to 18 years of age.

Since 2019, more than 610 development posts have been allocated to children's disability services across the country. These posts have been assigned to teams based on a number of factors, including the existing ratio of staff to the number of children with disabilities in each area. This figure includes 190 posts provided in 2022 as well an additional 136.3 WTEs to restore pre-existing services in 104 special schools.

Based on the CDNT Staffing Census (Oct 2022), there are over 700 vacant whole time equivalent posts in CDNTs. The HSE continues to explore a range of options to enhance the retention and recruitment of essential staff across all aspects of the health services.

Please find attached the National Report 2022 Children's Disability Network Team Staff Census and Workforce Review. This is the most recent fully validated report available and provides information regarding the number of staff, allocated positions, the number of administrative staff versus therapeutic staff, vacant posts, staff on leave for all the CDNTs December 2022.

End of 2023 information is not yet available.

Complaints regarding CDNTs are dealt with, in the first instance at local level and is not collated nationally.



The HSE is operating in a very competitive global market for healthcare talent as there are significant shortages of qualified healthcare professionals across the globe. The HSE Community Operations Disability Services is working collaboratively with the CDNT lead agencies at CHO level to promote CDNTs as a workplace of choice in a competitive employment market.

With regard to caseload, the CDNTs are currently providing services and supports for 45,741 children and strategies and supports for urgent cases on the waitlist where staffing resources allow.

In addition, substantial work has been undertaken by the HSE to develop a Roadmap for Service Improvement for Disability Services for Children and Young People which was approved by the HSE Board on July 28th and was launched by the Government and the HSE on Tuesday 24th October 2023.

National Information Management System for the CDNTs (CDNTIMS)

Historically the number of children waitlisted for children’s disability services provided by section 38 and section 39 providers has not been available nationally.

The establishment of CDNTs in 2021 has facilitated the collection of this data.

A National Management Information System for all 91 CDNTs is being rolled out and when implemented, will provide data on waiting lists and service provision for all CDNTs.

In the interim, manual data collection is on-going and provides information regarding current CDNT service demand including the number of children waiting for each CDNT, and service provision.

This Dataset represents the most recent validated information -end of August 2023 activity reports.

Number of children awaiting an initial contact with their local CDNT per CHO:

Status report	CHO 1	CHO 2	CHO 3	CHO 4	CHO 5	CHO 6	CHO 7	CHO 8	CHO 9
No of children waiting 0-3 months for an initial contact @month end	123.00	165.00	303.00	144.00	104.00	104.00	112.00	377.00	92
No of children waiting 4-6 months for an initial contact @month end	132.00	140.00	295.00	127.00	88.00	101.00	201.00	401.00	79
No of children waiting 7-12 months for an initial contact @month end	97.00	119.00	308.00	224.00	232.00	196.00	355.00	505.00	196
No of children waiting over 12 months for an initial contact @month end	98.00	407.00	431.00	834.00	1496.00	903.00	1820.00	1064.00	2506

Please also note that this is an interim dataset as roll out of the CDNT National Information Management System progresses. Some individual CDNTs indicate that they do not have a system in place to capture this level of activity, therefore there are gaps in data returns for some of the CHO Areas.

Yours Sincerely,



**Mr Bernard O'Regan,
Head of Operations - Disability Services, Community Operations**

