



Oifig an Stiúrthóir Cúnta Náisiúnta,
Foireann Míchumais Náisiúnta,
An Chéad Urlár - Oifigí 13, 14, 15,
Áras Phlásóg na Rós, Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,
Páirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta,
Caladh an Treoigh,
Luimneach.

Office of the Assistant National Director,
National Disability Team,
First Floor- Offices 13, 14, 15,
Roselawn House, University Business Complex,
National Technology Park,
Castletroy,
Limerick

23rd April 2024

Re REPDR/24/02532

Deputy Martin Kenny,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: martin.kenny@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Kenny,

This office has been asked to respond to PQ 14496/24

PQ: 14496/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the reason the children's disability network team has re-categorised a complex need in children and children with autism are no longer categorised as having a complex need; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

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.

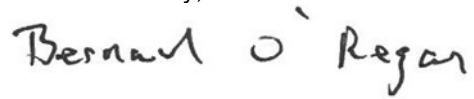
CDNTs are currently providing services and supports for 45,741 children and strategies and supports for urgent cases on the waitlist where staffing resources allow.

CDNTs are teams of health and social care professionals, including nursing, occupational therapy, psychology, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, social work and others. The team works closely together in a family centred model, focusing on the child's and family's own priorities.

Regardless of the nature of their disability, where they live, or the school they attend, every child with complex needs and their families have access to a range of family centred services and supports of their CDNT according to their individual needs. This includes universal, targeted and specialist supports, such as individual therapeutic intervention and access to specialist consultation and assessment when needed. Supports are provided as is feasible in the child's natural environments - their home, school and community.

During a child's time receiving services and supports, which may continue on and off up to their 18th birthday or leaving school if that's later, their presentation may change warranting a reassessment. That may result in a change i.e. a diagnosis where there wasn't one before or removal of a diagnosis as their presentation has changed over their development years.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernard O'Regan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bernard O'Regan
Assistant National Director,
Disability Services Team