



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.

8th May 2024

Deputy Peadar Tóibín,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: peadar.toibin@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

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: 18165/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of school OT staff who exist for each of the past five years; and the number of school speech therapist staff who exist for each of the past five years.

HSE Response - Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs)

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 as an additional 136.3 WTEs to restore pre-existing services in 104 special schools. In addition, the recruitment target of 300 Therapy Assistants over the next 2 and ½ years to work on CDNTs will also support children onsite in special schools with additional needs arising from their disability.

With regard to the question asked, the HSE does not collate data regarding the number of Occupational Therapists in schools however, we can provide information regarding therapy posts allocated to Special Schools. Please see the table on next page for current information.



Recruitment Status – Therapy Posts / Special schools

Therapy Posts ALLOCATED			Therapy Posts filled to date			Balance: unfilled posts		
	2021	2022		2021	2022		2021	2022
CHO1	1.00	11.50	CHO1	1.00	3.60	CHO1	0.00	7.90
CHO2	4.40	8.00	CHO2	4.40	2.00	CHO2	0.00	6.00
CHO3	0	20.50	CHO3	0	15.20	CHO3	0.00	5.30
CHO4	5.80	26.11	CHO4	2.50	20.55	CHO4	3.30	5.56
CHO5	4.30	22.10	CHO5	1.70	10.10	CHO5	2.60	12.00
CHO6	25.62	10.30	CHO6	16.70	5.60	CHO6	8.92	4.70
CHO7	16	2.00	CHO7	10.4	0.00	CHO7	5.60	2.00
CHO8	2.65	24.10	CHO8	0.00	10.40	CHO8	2.65	13.70
CHO9	27.65	11.80	CHO9	13.74	5.50	CHO9	13.91	6.30
TOTAL			TOTAL			TOTAL		
ALLOCATED	87.42	136.41	FILLED	50.44	72.95	UNFILLED	36.98	63.46

Therapy Assistant Posts 14.5 allocated in 2023			
	Allocated	Filled to date	Balance unfilled posts
CHO 2	3.5	2.00	1.50
CHO 4	7.5	2.50	5.00
CHO 7	3.5	0	3.50

In addition, the HSE and its partner Service Providers are delivering considerable levels of therapy supports to Special Schools, including: Speech and Language Therapy; Psychology; Occupational Therapy; Physiotherapy & Social Work.

With regard to therapy hours provided to Special Schools, from validated, updated information collated for February 2024, 8,235.2 therapy hours were provided per week, which equates to 235.29 WTEs.

Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023 – 2026, Disability Services for Children and Young People

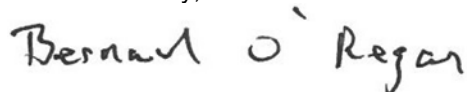
The HSE's Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023 – 2026, Disability Services for Children and Young People was approved by the HSE Board on July 28th and launched by the Government and the HSE on Tuesday 24th October 2023.

The Roadmap is a targeted Service Improvement Programme to achieve a quality, accessible, equitable and timely service for all children with complex needs as a result of a disability and their families.

It sets out the overall aim for Children's Disability Services, provided by the HSE and its partner agencies, for every child to have a childhood of inclusive experiences where they can have fun, learn, develop interests and skills, and form positive relationships with others in a range of different settings.

The Roadmap actions includes a robust suite of 60 actions, including 21 on CDNT Retention and Recruitment targets, and many of which are now in train.

Yours Sincerely,



Bernard O'Regan
Assistant National Director
National Disability Team

