



Alan Dillon TD  
Dail Eireann  
Kildare St  
Dublin 2

12<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**PQ 3195/24**

**"To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number on waiting lists (Primary Care Disability Services Team in Castlebar for: Dietician, Speech and Language Therapy, Psychology, Occupational Therapy, Behavioural Therapy for 3 months, 6 months and more that 18 months), in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter."**

Dear Deputy Dillon

I refer to PQ 3195/24 uploaded on the PAD System on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 and due for response on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024 regarding representations that you have made to the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth concerning " the number on waiting lists (Primary Care Disability Services Team in Castlebar for: Dietician, Speech and Language Therapy, Psychology, Occupational Therapy, Behavioural Therapy for 3 months, 6 months and more that 18 months), in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter." The HSE has been requested to reply directly to you on this matter. The following response outlines the position.

Please be advised that under the PDS model, Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) offer interdisciplinary support so do not maintain records of waiting lists for individual therapies. Wait times for the CDNTs are currently not recorded per discipline but are recorded as per national key metrics (waiting times to initial contact by a team member) since Mayo children's services reconfigured in January 2022.

Listed below is the latest key metric data available up to the end of December 2023 for CDNT2.

Caseload no. @ month end December 2023	345
No. of new children referred (incl. transferred from existing disability services) during the month	7
Average wait in months (since referral to the reconfigured CDNT) for an initial contact @ month end	0
No. of children waiting 0-3 months for an initial contact @ month end	4
No. of children waiting 4-6 months for an initial contact @ month end	1
No. of children waiting 6-12 months for an initial contact @ month end	0
No. of children waiting over 12 months for an initial contact @ month end	0

All avenues to recruit and retain staff on the CDNTs are being explored as a top priority. A new national recruitment campaign for basic grade and senior therapists with the various CDNTs closed on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024. It is anticipated that interviews will take place in February and posts will be filled as soon as possible after that.

I trust that this response has clarified the matter that you have raised in this instance.

Yours sincerely

*Padraic Carolan*

General Manager  
Children's Disability Services, CHW