



**Oifig an Stiúirthóir 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.

25<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Deputy Roisin Shortall,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
E-mail: [roisin.shortall@oireachtas.ie](mailto:roisin.shortall@oireachtas.ie)

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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: 32847/24**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of children who are on a waiting list for therapies identified in their service statement, following completion of the assessment of needs process, by wait time and service, in tabular form.*

**HSE Response**

93 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.

The CDNTs are currently providing services and supports for over 46,000 children and strategies and supports for urgent cases on the waitlist where staffing resources allow. However, there are significant challenges for CDNTs including:

- Significant staffing vacancies
- Growth in numbers of children with complex need
- Growth in demand for Assessment of Need, diverting further resources away from interventions.

The HSE's *Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023 – 2026, Disability Services for Children and Young People*, launched in October 2023, now in implementation phase, 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.

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



## 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 current data on waiting lists and other details for all CDNTs.

Pending full roll-out, manual data collection is on-going. Information is collated nationally per CHO.

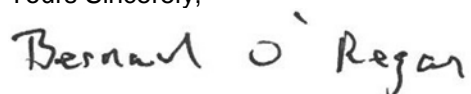
The table below is the most recent data reported to the Business Information Unit (BIU) -end of May 2024. This shows the number of children that are waiting for an initial contact with a CDNT in the 9 CHO Areas.

It is important to note that children do not require an Assessment of Need as defined by the Disability Act (2005) in order to access a CDNT or Primary Care service. They can be referred by a healthcare professional or parent/carer to the CDNT for children with complex needs as a result of their disability, or to Primary Care for children with non-complex needs.

The CDNT waiting list data provided below includes children who have been through assessment of needs process.

End of May updates 2024 CDNT Metrics BIU statistics	CHO 1	CHO 2	CHO 3	CHO 4	CHO 5	CHO 6	CHO 7	CHO 8*	CHO 9
No. of <b>children waiting 0-3 months</b> for an initial CDNT contact @ month end	298	181	294	143	65	24	147	281	64
No. of <b>children waiting 4-6 months</b> for an initial CDNT contact @ month end	234	148	225	112	95	30	194	256	106
No. of <b>children waiting 7-12 months</b> for an initial CDNT contact @ month end	263	241	384	134	203	192	325	440	209
No. of <b>children waiting over 12 months</b> for an initial CDNT contact @ month end	284	268	458	386	1377	1088	1968	1000	2486

Yours Sincerely,



**Bernard O'Regan**  
Assistant National Director  
National Disability Team

