



**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 Pauline Tully,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
E-mail: [pauline.tully@oireachtas.ie](mailto:pauline.tully@oireachtas.ie)

Dear Deputy Tully,

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: 33549/24**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 1715, 1716 and 1744 of 26 July 2022, if he will detail the names and addresses of each special school that has been provided with on-site multidisciplinary supports; the total number of special schools in the State; and the total number of special schools who have not been provided with on-site multidisciplinary supports.*

**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.

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.

The HSE and its partner Service Providers are delivering therapy supports to Special Schools, including: Speech and Language Therapy; Psychology; Occupational Therapy; Physiotherapy & Social Work.



Please see the attached List of Special Schools in receipt of therapy hours from the CDNTs.

With regard to the total number of special schools in the State, the HSE does not have this information. Response to this question should be sought from National Council for Special Education. See:

<https://ncse.ie/>

### **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, now in its 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.

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.

### **The Roadmap's Working Group 5. concerns Engagement with Education and Support for Special Schools.**

Ongoing recruitment of an additional 136.3 senior posts remains a priority to restore health and social care supports historically provided in special schools as directed by the Government.

HSE National Disabilities continue to engage with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and the Department of Education in the context of ongoing discussions to explore further initiatives to progress the return of therapists to Special Schools.

Yours Sincerely,



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

