



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.

13th November 2024

Deputy Sean Sherlock,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: sean.sherlock@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary questions, which were submitted to this department for response.

PQ: 38912/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of WTE staff that will be removed from each CDNT into special schools, in tabular form; and if he expects the gaps to be filled for the CDNT intervention.

PQ: 38913/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if he will approve a suite of interim funding arrangements for special schools to hire their own school therapists to protect CDNT staff currently deployed in intervention work.

HSE Response

The Health Services Executive, and the Lead Agencies it funds, are working continuously to develop supports for children with Disabilities and their families.

In line with Government policy, the HSE has recruited approximately 80 of the 136 additional posts provided for by Government to restore supports to special schools to pre-reconfiguration levels.

The HSE and funded agencies continue to prioritise retention and recruitment for children's services, including these posts. The range of measures have included:

- Dedicated and rolling recruitment campaigns
- The use of agency staffing where available
- Dedicated webinars with new graduates to attract them to work in CDNTs
- Engagement with Government to expand the number of HSCP training places
- Development of measures to enhance clinical placements in disability services



- Development of a 3 year student sponsorship programme

In addition, any additional therapy capacity available from other organisations in their respective areas can be commissioned to provide supports to children and families under the governance of the CDNT, including provision to children in special schools.

Pilot in Special Schools

In August 2024, Government asked the HSE to initiate a pilot of dedicated supports, under the governance of the CDNTs, to six special schools initially, two in Dublin and four in Cork.

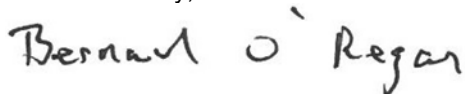
The HSE continues work with Lead Agencies to recruit staff for provision of on-site therapy supports in the six schools and meanwhile, progressing interim measures including redeployment of existing staff from CDNTs, private service providers, and engaging recently retired therapists.

The HSE is working with representatives from DCEDIY, Dept. of Education and the NCSE at the National Oversight Group to lead the overall Pilot. In addition, local working groups have been established and are currently developing a joint working model of service.

A further ten schools are to be included in the Pilot and the National Oversight Group has commenced consideration of which schools are to be included. It is expected that this will be concluded and the schools announced in due course.

Staff for the special schools pilot are being recruited into the existing CDNT staffing WTE vacancies and will work under the governance of the relevant CDNTs.

Yours sincerely,



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

