



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 Paul Donnelly,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: paul.donnelly@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Donnelly,

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: 39247/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of WTE on-site school therapists, by grade, operating in each special school in Dublin in 2022, 2023 and to date in 2024, in tabular form.

HSE Response

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

In line with Government policy, the HSE has recruited approximately 80 of the 135 additional posts provided for by Government to restore supports to special schools to pre-reconfiguration levels.

The HSE and funded agencies continue to prioritise 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
- Engagement with Government to expand the number of graduate places
- Development of measures to enhance clinical placements in disability services

Recruitment Status – Therapy Posts / Special schools

With regard to the question asked, please see tables 1 and 2 below which give information regarding recruitment status for therapy posts/ special schools. Table 1 contains the status at end of 2021 and 2022. Table 2 is recruitment status at



the end of September 2024. Please note that CHO 2 information is end of August 2024. CHO 8 information is end of July 2024

Please see CHOs 6, 7 and 9 for information pertaining to Therapy Posts allocated and filled in the greater Dublin area.

Table 1: recruitment status at end of 2021 and 2022.

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

Table 2: recruitment status at end of September 2024.

Therapy Hours		Therapy Posts Filled:	Therapy Posts Unfilled
Allocated 2022		Sep-24	Sep-24
CHO 1	11.5	5.6	5.9
CHO 2	8	5*	3
CHO 3	19.5	18.5	1
CHO 4	26.11	17.89	8.22
CHO 5	23.26	10	13.26
CHO 6	10.3	5.5	4.8
CHO 7	2	1	1
CHO 8	24.1	10.4**	13.7
CHO 9	11.79	8.1	3.69
Total	136.56	81.99	54.57

*End of August 2024. ** End of July 2024.

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 has worked with Lead Agencies and on-site therapy supports are in place from 30/9/24 in five of the six schools. The Lead Agency for the one school that has not yet progressed continues to engage with staff, supported by the HSE.

The HSE is working with representatives from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, the Department of Education and the NCSE at the National Oversight Group to lead the overall Pilot. In addition, local working groups are being established/have been established which will address any local issues.



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.

Yours Sincerely,

Bernard O'Regan

Bernard O'Regan
Assistant National Director
National Disability Team

