



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.

9th September 2024

Deputy Pauline Tully,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: 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: 34448/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth of the 495 applications received in the latest recruitment drive for Children's Disability Network Teams, the number who have accepted jobs and have commenced work to date.

HSE Response

Recruitment Campaign

Despite the recruitment pause in November 2023, the CEO of the HSE made derogations in relation to recruitment for a range of essential services including clinical posts for CDNTs.

The first media advertising campaign for Children's Disability Network Teams – '*Be part of our team, Be part of their lives*'; commenced in January 2024.

The roles being recruited were, newly qualified and experienced dieticians, occupational therapists, psychologists, social workers, speech and language therapists.

A simple online application process accessed via www.hse.ie/cdnt meant roles in disability partner organisations (Sec 38s and 39s) could be included. This was important as each lead agency is responsible for their own recruitment. The HSE is a lead agency for 41 of the 93 teams.

Working with our contracted agencies and following extensive input from parents and staff in the HSE and disability partner organisations, we created an advertising campaign that helped us engage with our target audience effectively.



The campaign yielded 495 applications across the 6 professions outlined above.

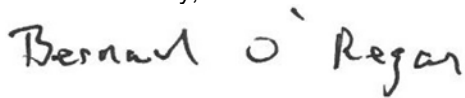
59% of the applications were for senior grades and 41% were for staff grade entry level positions. As the public sector is the main employer of these grades, the majority of applicants (75%) were already employed in the public health and social care services. As is their right and will and preference, these internal candidates were mainly seeking opportunities for either a promotion, or to move locations or to move care settings.

To date (August 2024), 56 applicants who were successful at interview have accepted jobs and have or are commencing work in the CDNTs.

The HSE is operating in a very competitive global market for healthcare talent as there are significant shortages of qualified healthcare professionals across the globe. The demand for these HSCP professions significantly outstrips supply both nationally and internationally. The HSE Resourcing Strategy '*Resourcing our Future*' was launched in May 2023 to ensure a sufficient domestic supply of health care staff. The strategy is being implemented by the services locally to maximise the resourcing and delivery of publicly funded health services for the future.

Seven of the disciplines working in children's disability teams have been included on the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment's Critical Skills Occupations List.

Yours Sincerely,



Bernard O'Regan
Assistant National Director
National Disability Team

