

Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,

Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta, 31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

Office of the Head of Operations,

Disability Services/Social Care Division, 31-33 Catherine Street, Limerick.

T: 00353 (0) 61 483369

Suíomh Gréasáin/Website: http://www.hse.ie

8th December 2021

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: 58071/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of children aged zero to 18 in each CHO by individual area, awaiting first-time intervention in all areas of early intervention; the number on the public list; the number on the CDNT list in each CHO in tabular form; and the length of time they are awaiting intervention by age.

PQ: 58072/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of children who have completed assessment, intervention and completed therapies by age in each CHO in tabular form.

HSE Response

The HSE acknowledges the challenges in meeting the demand for children's disability services and is acutely conscious of how this impacts on children and their families.

Children requiring interventions including health and therapy services, such as Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Psychology and other therapy services would access services through Primary Care Teams in CHO Areas as well as through Children's Disability Services.

Whilst accepting that significant levels of vital therapies were temporarily curtailed due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, the restoration and continuity of services is underway in a safe way in line with the very significant investment made by the State and funded agencies. We continue to work with service users and their families/carers to ensure that we achieve this aim.

HSE Disability Services does not gather data on services provided through other service areas such as Primary Care and in the case of some interventions required by children, Acute Services and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

While it is not possible to give information on the number of children aged zero to 18 awaiting first-time intervention in all areas of early intervention or on the number of children who have completed



assessment, intervention and completed therapies, Primary Care Operations has compiled the latest available waiting list data, on services for which they collate data, for the end of October 2021 for those aged 0 to 17 years and 11 months.

- Table 1 in the Appendix includes the data for Psychology Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old Patients waiting for treatment October 2021.
- Table 2 in the Appendix includes the data for Occupational Therapy Number of 0-17 years &
 11 months old Patients Awaiting First Time Assessment October 2021.
- Table 3 in the Appendix includes the data for Physiotherapy Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old Patients waiting for Assessment October 2021.
- Table 4 in the Appendix includes the data Speech and Language Therapy Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Initial Assessment October 2021.
- Table 5 in the Appendix includes the data for Speech and Language Therapy Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Initial Therapy - October 2021.
- Table 6 in the Appendix includes the data for Speech and Language Therapy Number of 0 17 years & 11 months old patients awaiting Further Therapy October 2021
- Table 7 in the Appendix includes the data for Dietetics Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old patients waiting for treatment October 2021.
- Table 8 in the Appendix includes the data for Ophthalmology Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old Patients waiting for treatment October 2021
- Table 9 in the Appendix includes the data for Audiology Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old Patients waiting for treatment October 2021

Progressing Disability Services for Children & Young People (PDS)

A number of service improvements are being introduced that, when implemented, will help improve access to services including therapy services for children with disabilities and developmental delays.

The implementation of the Progressing Disability Services for Children & Young People (PDS) programme is agreed Government and HSE policy. This policy supports the reconfiguration of children's disability services to provide equitable, child and family centred services based on need rather than diagnosis. The PDS programme will ensure that services are provided for children with complex needs regardless of where they live or where they go to school.

The Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People (PDS) model addresses the previous inequity in service provision whereby there may have been an excellent service for some children and little or no service for others. This variance may have been linked to diagnosis, age group or geography. Under the PDS programme children's disability services are changing from diagnosis based to needs based, so that all children with a disability or developmental delay have access to the right service based on their needs no matter where they live.

The National Policy on Access to Services for Children & Young People with Disability & Developmental Delay ensures that children are directed to the appropriate service based on the complexity of their presenting needs rather than based on diagnosis. Many children and adults with a disability who have support needs can be effectively supported within mainstream child and adult health services. This policy will provide a single point of entry, signposting parents and referrers to the most appropriate service (Primary Care for non-complex functional difficulties and Children's Disability Network Teams for complex functional difficulties).

The HSE is committed to the full implementation of the Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People Programme (PDS). PDS is a significant change programme for the provision of services and supports for children from birth to 18 years of age, in line with Sláintecare and the Programme for Government, in order to:



- Provide a clear pathway and fairer access to services for all children with a disability
- Make the best use of available resources for the benefit of all children and their families
- Ensure effective teams are working in partnership with families and with education staff to support children with a disability to reach their full potential.

PDS aligns with two clear objectives of The Sláintecare Report to:

- Provide the majority of care at or as close to home as possible
- Create an integrated system of care with healthcare professionals working closely together.

Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs)

In line with the PDS model, resources assigned to children's disability services are allocated to the 0 – 18 Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) rather than to a dedicated early intervention team or dedicated school age team.

91 Children's Disability Networks (CDN) are aligning to 96 Community Healthcare Networks (CHNs) across the country and each Children's Disability Network will have one CDNT providing services and supports for children aged from birth to 18 years of age. Early Intervention Teams and School Age Teams already in place are reconfiguring into 0-18 CDNTs. On full reconfiguration of children's disability services into CDNTs, every child across the country with complex needs arising from their disability will have access to a Children's Disability Network Team.

CDNTs are teams of health and social care professionals, including nursing, occupational therapy, psychology, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, social work and others. The team works closely together in a family centred model, focusing on the child's and family's own priorities. Once all teams are in place, every child with complex needs will have access to a team, regardless of the nature of their disability, where they live, or the school they attend.

Children and their families will have access to the full range of services and supports of the CDNT according to their individual needs. This includes universal, targeted and specialist supports, such as individual therapeutic intervention and access to specialist consultation and assessment when needed. Supports will be provided as is feasible in the child's natural environments - their home, school and community.

The first step for all areas is the reconfiguration of existing staff resources into CDNTs. The staffing mix available in each area will be influenced by the historical development of services. For example, some areas may have a significant number of nurses available for reconfiguration, others may have family support workers or early educators.

Since 2019, 285 development posts have been allocated to children's disability services across the country. This is broken down as follows:

- 100 posts provided in NSP 2019
- 100 posts provided in NSP 2021
- 85 posts for services in special schools approved mid 2021

The range of posts recruited / in recruitment in 2021 include; dietitians, occupational therapists, physiotherapists. psychologists, speech & language therapists, nurses and some administrative support. These posts have been assigned based on a number of factors, including the existing ratio of staff to the number of children with disabilities in each area.

The special school posts were approved by the Minister of State for Disabilities to facilitate the provision of in-reach services to those special schools that have heretofore provided a school based service. These staff members will be employed as part of the new CDNTs and will report to the Children's Disability Network Manager. CHOs will ensure that the allocation of any posts to CDNTs are targeted towards providing appropriate interventions.



Services in most parts of the country have now reconfigured to CDNTs. The remaining teams will be established before the end of 2021, thereby all 91 CDNTs will be in place and delivering services at that time.

Historically the number of children waitlisted in each organisation providing children's disability services has not been available nationally. A National Management Information System for all 91 CDNTs is in development and when implemented, will provide current data on waiting lists for all CDNTs.

A child and family centred service model is being implemented across all teams, which will focus on the child and families own prioritised goals and an Individual Family Service Plan including the CDNTs services and supports to enable the child and family to achieve their goals, CDNTs prioritise the team's waitlist and caseloads based on need. The provision of equitable services by a CDNT will inevitably mean that some children will receive less than they may have done previously in order to accommodate children with disabilities who have not received services previously.

Yours sincerely,
Bernard O'Regan

Bernard O'Regan

Head of Operations - Disability Services,

Community Operations

Appendix

Table 1

СНО	0 - 4 Yr	s 11 Mon	ths			5 - 17 Y	rs 11 Mo	nths			
Area	0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks -≤26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52	> 52 weeks	0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks -≤26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52	> 52 weeks	TOTAL
CHO1 Total	11	16	4	4	6	114	109	89	105	148	606
CHO2 Total	20	13	11	12	24	78	59	46	39	174	476
CHO3 Total	12	16	12	8	13	47	82	67	21	136	414
CHO4 Total	76	37	28	18	25	429	381	144	118	856	2,112
CHO5 Total	41	30	12	4	6	219	160	118	96	156	842
CHO6 Total	50	32	15	9	3	107	82	40	23	8	369
CHO7 Total	45	40	21	25	88	130	155	154	124	1,232	2,014
CHO8 Total	42	19	9	2	0	253	161	55	45	2	588
CHO9 Total	39	53	19	9	125	173	194	145	106	1,270	2,133
National Total	336	256	131	91	290	1,550	1,383	858	677	3,982	9,554



Table 2

СНО	0 - 4 Yr	s 11 Mon	ths			5 - 17 Y	rs 11 Mo	nths			
Area	0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks -≤26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52	> 52 weeks	0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks -≤26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52	> 52 weeks	TOTAL
CHO1 Total	8	15	10	6	67	84	123	143	90	898	1,444
CHO2 Total	48	25	5	9	1	60	68	90	67	145	518
CHO3 Total	16	11	2	1	1	81	125	29	28	41	335
CHO4 Total	142	120	41	32	36	503	662	349	220	914	3,019
CHO5 Total	80	81	67	44	217	142	306	208	199	1,775	3,119
CHO6 Total	34	12	3	0	8	70	59	32	27	219	464
CHO7 Total	38	48	30	20	59	110	133	135	116	602	1,291
CHO8 Total	294	297	150	80	253	287	313	128	103	946	2,851
CHO9 Total	26	40	12	20	45	132	188	162	142	811	1,578
National Total	686	649	320	212	687	1,469	1,977	1,276	992	6,351	14,619

Table 3

СНО	0 - 4 Yr	s 11 Mon	ths			5 - 17 Y	rs 11 Mo	nths			
Area	0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks -≤26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52	> 52 weeks	0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks -≤26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52	> 52 weeks	TOTAL
CHO1 Total	164	57	41	12	46	135	61	50	49	490	1,105
CHO2 Total	176	89	36	25	74	151	85	37	40	203	916
CHO3 Total	149	33	13	6	0	128	50	20	11	10	420
CHO4 Total	212	88	20	6	14	242	129	72	41	154	978
CHO5 Total	219	78	19	12	8	196	85	55	28	79	779
CHO6 Total	174	24	14	0	0	96	35	10	7	2	362
CHO7 Total	255	109	63	50	59	108	118	51	56	94	963
CHO8 Total	385	229	137	53	163	294	252	157	78	500	2,248
CHO9 Total	286	115	33	15	17	125	87	64	27	126	895
National Total	2,020	822	376	179	381	1,475	902	516	337	1,658	8,666

Table 4

CHO Area	0 to 4 Mths	4 months & 1 day - 8 months	8 months & 1 day - 12 months	12 months & 1 day - 18 months	18 months & 1 day to 24 months	>24 months	Total
CHO1	676	514	368	239	141	20	1,958
CHO2	711	413	171	39	24	3	1,361
СНОЗ	741	609	358	148	23	53	1,932
CHO4	970	435	38	4	13	15	1,475
CHO5	716	492	318	185	322	1	2,034
CHO6	155	46	0	0	0	0	201
СНО7	589	609	456	180	35	3	1,872
CHO8	374	194	108	57	50	5	788
СНО9	434	491	160	62	93	6	1,246
Total	5,366	3,803	1,977	914	701	106	12,867

Table 5

CHO Area	0 to 4 Mths	4 months	8 months	12 months	18 months	>24 months	Total
		& 1 day - 8 months	& 1 day - 12 months	& 1 day - 18 months	& 1 day to 24 months		
CHO1	82	22	13	0	0	0	117
CHO2	516	331	105	60	32	3	1,047
СНОЗ	262	135	80	27	21	44	569
CHO4	707	508	313	516	273	156	2,473
CHO5	286	342	197	155	153	470	1,603
CHO6	78	58	11	0	0	0	147
СНО7	138	40	16	29	42	21	286
CHO8	152	121	8	19	25	0	325

CHO9	536	528	352	219	191	45	1,871
Total	2,757	2,085	1,095	1,025	737	739	8,438

Table 6

		ber of 0-17	years & 1	1 months o	old patients	s awaiting
0 to 4 Mths	4 months & 1 day - 8 months	8 months & 1 day - 12 months	12 months & 1 day - 18 months	18 months & 1 day to 24 months	>24 months	Total
213	230	94	110	44	0	691
704	399	130	172	200	12	1,617
579	354	281	90	91	103	1,498
1,108	678	534	430	207	121	3,078
158	361	512	169	324	103	1,627
0	3	0	0	0	0	3
160	201	82	103	156	85	787
84	49	75	128	70	0	406
499	614	392	300	256	33	2,094
3,505	2,889	2,100	1,502	1,348	457	11,801
	October	October 2021 0 to 4 Mths 4 months & 1 day - 8 months 213 230 704 399 579 354 1,108 678 158 361 0 3 160 201 84 49 499 614	October 2021 0 to 4 Mths 4 months & 1 day - 12 months & 1 day - 8 months 2 13 230 94 704 399 1,108 678 579 354 281 1,108 678 534 158 361 512 0 3 160 201 84 49 75 499 614 392	October 2021 8 12 0 to 4 4 8 months & 1 day - 12 months & 1 day - 18 months & 1 day - 18 months 213 230 94 110 704 399 130 172 579 354 281 90 1,108 678 534 430 158 361 512 169 0 3 0 0 160 201 82 103 84 49 75 128 499 614 392 300	October 2021 October 2021 0 to 4 Mths 4 months & 1 day -8 months & 1 day -12 months 12 months & 1 day to 24 months & 1 day -8 months -12 months 8 1 day to 24 months 213 230 94 110 44 704 399 130 172 200 579 354 281 90 91 1,108 678 534 430 207 158 361 512 169 324 0 3 0 0 0 160 201 82 103 156 84 49 75 128 70 499 614 392 300 256	0 to 4 Mths 4 months & months & 1 day - 8 months & 1 day - 12 months 12 months & 1 day to 24 months 13 day to 24 months 14 day to 24 months 213 230 94 110 44 0 704 399 130 172 200 12 579 354 281 90 91 103 1,108 678 534 430 207 121 158 361 512 169 324 103 0 3 0 0 0 0 160 201 82 103 156 85 84 49 75 128 70 0 499 614 392 300 256 33

Table 7

СНО	0 - 4 Yrs	s 11 Mon	ths			5 - 17 Y	rs 11 Mo	nths			
Area	0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks -≤26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52	> 52 weeks	0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks - ≤ 26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52	> 52 weeks	TOTAL
CHO1 Total	63	28	7	2	0	84	48	15	2	0	249
CHO2 Total	77	110	80	32	132	26	40	35	11	147	690
CHO3 Total	36	49	32	32	152	44	40	36	54	444	919
CHO4 Total	225	103	22	1	4	164	71	10	1	3	604
CHO5 Total	112	97	91	101	271	78	58	164	210	599	1,781
CHO6 Total	37	7	0	0	0	7	9	0	0	0	60
CHO7 Total	87	58	27	22	139	22	18	20	13	82	488
CHO8 Total	124	49	24	12	11	66	46	31	17	48	428
CHO9 Total	114	51	41	20	7	24	8	18	11	6	300
National Total	875	552	324	222	716	515	338	329	319	1,329	5,519

Table 8

СНО	0 - 4 Yrs	s 11 Mon	ths			5 - 17 Y	rs 11 Mo	nths			
Area	0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks -≤26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52	> 52 weeks	0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks -≤26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52	> 52 weeks	TOTAL
CHO1 Total	135	132	76	37	104	123	67	65	64	207	1,010
CHO2 Total	291	552	485	626	2,214	201	306	190	169	1,092	6,126
CHO3 Total	86	96	31	20	65	258	165	115	49	355	1,240
CHO4 Total	252	204	98	87	294	181	353	173	158	957	2,757
CHO5 Total	312	130	90	83	597	194	94	37	47	51	1,635
CHO6 Total	60	13	0	0	0	90	4	0	0	0	167
CHO7 Total	95	132	54	128	501	99	88	13	45	287	1,442
CHO8 Total	413	116	60	50	351	293	79	32	19	932	2,345
CHO9 Total	39	0	0	0	0	77	0	0	0	0	116
National Total	1,683	1,375	894	1,031	4,126	1,516	1,156	625	551	3,881	16,838



Table 9

Aud	iology -	Numbe	r of 0-17				Patients v	waiting	for treat	ment	
		0 -	4 Yrs 11 Mon		tober 2	1021	5 - 17	Yrs 11 Mo	nths		
CHO Area	0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks -≤26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52	> 52 weeks	0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks - ≤ 26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52	> 52 weeks	TOTAL
CHO 1 Total	65	56	24	12	6	65	53	17	12	91	401
CHO 2 Total	101	150	101	98	152	133	154	61	41	64	1,055
CHO 3 Total	59	79	59	49	139	33	39	29	37	151	674
CHO 4 Total	239	204	171	173	480	190	156	82	66	74	1,835
CHO 5 Total	154	172	107	109	252	101	105	75	112	511	1,698
CHO 6 Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHO 7 Total	129	128	83	26	0	132	149	68	27	0	742
CHO 8 Total	102	119	67	47	188	54	31	43	51	605	1,307
CHO 9 Total	192	143	106	39	0	82	58	68	55	2	745
Natio nal Total	1,041	1,051	718	553	1,217	790	745	443	401	1,498	8,457