



**26<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

Ms. Mary Lou McDonald, TD  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**Head of Service for Disability**  
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**PQ 49518/21** - 'To ask the Minister for Health the average waiting time between an assessment of need and engagement with the recommended services in respect of children aged 18 years and under in Dublin 1, 3, 7 and 9.' – **Mary Lou McDonald TD**

Dear Deputy McDonald,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) have been established since the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021. All children's cases open and waiting for Children's Disability services have been transferred to their CDNT based on their home address. The CDNTs are operating their services in line with relevant National Policies, including the National Policy on Prioritisation of Referrals to CDNTs. In general children are prioritised on basis of date of referral however there are circumstances, as detailed in this policy, where children will be seen as matter of urgency.

Postal districts do not line up exactly with the areas covered by CDNTs. However the following CDNTs cover the areas detailed in this request:

Postal area	CDNT	Approximate longest waiting
Dublin 1	North Inner City	2-2.5 years
Dublin 3	Clontarf	2.5 years
Dublin 7	Cabra Grangegorman	4 years
Dublin 9	Clontarf CDNT and Ballymun CDNT	2.5-3 years

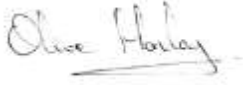
CDNT Managers and their teams are in the process of reviewing the waiting lists and active files of children transferred to their team. Following this review, the teams will be able to provide a clearer indication of the projected waiting times for services on individual teams and will be contacting all parents to update them.

CHO DNCC CDNTs have received additional posts for children's disability services this year and the posts have been allocated to CDNTs in line with validated waiting lists and staffing ratios across all Networks.

We have prioritised workforce planning to ensure equitable distribution of staffing resources which are finite. Each Lead Agency for the relevant networks as per document attached is actively working on recruitment initiatives to fill the existing vacancies and new development posts in each CDNT. There are circa 50wte posts to be filled across the 12 CDNTs at this time and we anticipate a large number of the posts will be filled by year end or early 2022.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Olive Hanley". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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**Ms Olive Hanley**  
**Head of Service for Disability**