

21st October 2021

Ms Holly Cairns, TD.
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ Ref 50795/21

**“To ask the Minister for Health the steps he is taking to address children waiting for initial contact with Children’s Disability Network Teams in the West Cork Network”.
Details supplied: the West Cork Network, as of 30th September 2021 there are 41 children waiting for initial contact with the CDNT. 11 of these children have been waiting less than 4 months, 30 children have been waiting between 4-8 months.**

Dear Deputy Cairns,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

It is the objective of the Childrens Disability Network Teams to ensure that all children newly referred will have timely access to the appropriate services; however the West Cork Network (West Cork Child Development Service) continue to experience challenges. The challenges include the large number of children on the caseload and the staff resources assigned to the team. The HSE and CoAction (Lead Agency for WCCDS) remain committed to ensure a safe, quality and timely service to children with disability and their families. All children referred to WCCDS from September 2021 onwards will receive their Initial Contact within 4 to 5 weeks of commencing with the service.

The following information provides an update regarding the children on the waiting list at the end of September 2021: there were 41 children waiting; 30 waiting for an Initial Team Assessment and 11 waiting for an Initial Contact. The 11 children and their families have now received the Initial Contact and the 30 children have either started the Initial Team Assessment or will be seen in the next one to four months.

I trust this clarifies the situation for you.

Yours sincerely



Ms. Majella Daly,
Head of Disability Services,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare