



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,
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Suíomh Gréasáin/Website: <http://www.hse.ie> 2022

6th May 2022

Deputy Martin Browne,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: martin.browne@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Browne,

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 20112/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of staff who are needed to reach full staffing levels in each children's disability network team in the CHO3 and CHO5 areas; the number of staff who are currently in place in each children's disability network team in the CHO3 and CHO5 areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

In 2021, the remainder of ninety-one CDNTs were established to provide services and supports for all children with complex needs within a defined geographic area.

CDNTs are teams of health and social care professionals (e.g., occupational therapists, psychologists, physiotherapists, speech and language therapists, social workers) and others disciplines (e.g., nursing). The reconfiguration into CDNTs and the resultant staffing mix was influenced by a number of factors including the staff resources of existing services and the expressions of interest process. Hence, some CDNTs may have other disciplines such as nurses, family support workers or early educators.

Regardless of the nature of their disability, where they live, or the school they attend, every child with complex needs and their families have access to the full range of family centred services and supports of their 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 are provided as is feasible in the child's natural environments - their home, school and community.

Since 2019, more than 475 development posts have been allocated to children's disability services across the country. 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 table below provides detail regarding the number of development posts by whole-time equivalent allocated to CDNTs in 2019, 2021 and 2022. The Children's Disability Networks Governance Group at CHO level, decided the allocation of these posts by discipline and team in line with the governance



procedures for CDNTs. The full allocation for 2022 has not yet been assigned pending performance indicators, so only those posts that have been allocated year to date are included here.

CDNT Development Posts			
	2019	2021	2022
CHO1	12	15.7	11
CHO2	3.5	15.5	5
CHO3	12	13.4	4
CHO4	6	13.3	14.5
CHO5	15	16	26
CHO6	3.5	32.32	4
CHO7	13	26.6	24.5
CHO8	19	14.95	23.5
CHO9	16	39.55	17.5
Specialist Services			18.5
Total	100	187.32	148.5

A staffing census of the Children's Disability Network Teams has been finalised. There are 91 CDNTs located across 9 CHOs. The total number of approved WTE is 1,892.38. Currently there are 1,367.88 filled WTE, of which 1,173.28 WTE are in therapy / clinical roles. There are 524.50 vacancies across the 91 teams. The ratio of therapy / clinical to administration / management filled WTE is 6:1.

The HSE will be working with Lead Agencies to implement a ratio of 5:1 therapy / clinical to administration / management between 2022 – 2023 to reduce the time spent by clinicians / therapists on administrative duties thereby maximising the therapy hours available for direct service provision with children and their families.

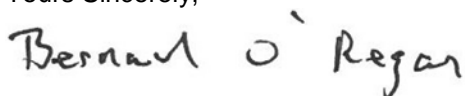
The Table below shows the % WTE (Filled and Vacant) in CHO 3 and CHO 5.

CHO	Approved WTE	Filled WTE	Vacant WTE	% Filled	% Vacant
CHO3	168.27	140.47	27.80	83%	17%
CHO5	165.15	110.76	54.39	67%	33%

The additional posts provided for under the National Service Plans for 2021 and 2022 are intended to support the newly established CDNTs to prioritise intervention for children with complex needs.

Each CHO area will decide, in partnership with the lead agencies in the area, how these posts should be allocated across the CDNTS, the required disciplines and grades. These decisions and resulting recruitment plans are currently being finalised. Recruitment remains a challenge across all areas in the health sector which is compounded by the limitations of the employment market, however the HSE and its lead agency partners are continuously working to recruit staff for children's disability services.

Yours Sincerely,



**Mr Bernard O'Regan,
Head of Operations - Disability Services,
Community Operations**

