



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.

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11<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Deputy Thomas Gould,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
E-mail: [thomas.gould@oireachtas.ie](mailto:thomas.gould@oireachtas.ie)

Dear Deputy Gould,

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 20412/22**

*To ask the Minister for Health the planned full-time equivalent staffing, by role for each county's children's disability network teams in 2027 and 2032*

#### **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 CDNT Staff Census and Workforce Review 2021 provided valuable information on staffing in the 91 CDNTs located across 9 CHOs. The total number of approved WTE is 1,892.38, with 524.50 vacant WTE across the 91 teams. The priority for the HSE and Lead Agencies is to recruit staff to fill these vacant posts.



Given the challenges experienced in recruitment, 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 to children and their families.

It is intended that the CDNT Staff Census and Workforce Review will be undertaken annually. The information gathered each year will support the HSE and Lead Agencies in the development of workforce planning initiatives to support bids for funding and targeted responses to gaps in staffing.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernard O'Regan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Bernard" on top and "O'Regan" below it, separated by a small dot and a撇 (grave accent) over the 'o'.

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

