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**13<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

**Deputy Jackie Cahill  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2**

**e-mail: [Jackie.Cahill@oireachtas.ie](mailto:Jackie.Cahill@oireachtas.ie)**

**Re: PQ/59920/22**

*To ask the Minister for Health the number of additional CDNT psychologists that would be required in the north Tipperary area to clear the current waiting list of 339 children in a twelve-month period; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy Cahill

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

In line with national policy, the North Tipperary Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) follows a bio-psychosocial model of service delivery through family-centred practice by an interdisciplinary team. The services offered are based on the child's individual needs and family priorities as identified in the child's Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP).

An interdisciplinary approach involves team members from different disciplines working together to achieve goals. For this reason a variety of disciplines and not just Psychology alone would be required in order to meet the needs of all children on North Tipperary CDNT's waiting list.

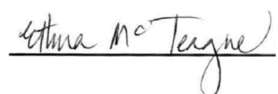
While there are no guidelines as to the ideal whole time equivalent (WTE) clinician to client ratio for CDNTs, the North Tipperary team would estimate that 5.0 WTE's per 100 children with complex needs would enable the CDNT to function optimally. Therefore, in order to meet the needs of the clients on the current waiting list of 342 children, 17 additional clinical posts would be required, to include a variety of disciplines.

In addition to the above clinical posts, the North Tipperary CDNT would also require additional administration staff to support increased number of clinical personnel to ensure optimal functioning of the CDNT.

Should additional posts be made available to the North Tipperary CDNT, it must be acknowledged that there are challenges locally and nationally with recruitment of staff at the present time.

I trust this clarifies the situation but should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ethna McTeague". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Ethna McTeague  
General Manager, Disability Services  
HSE Mid-West Community Healthcare