



**Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,**  
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Deputy Sean Sherlock,  
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Dublin 2.  
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Dear Deputy Sherlock,

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 7215/22**

*To ask the Minister for Health the number of whole-time equivalents for each therapy and assessment of need offered by early intervention by CHO and each composite LHO within that CHO, in tabular form.*

#### **HSE Response**

##### **Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs)**

In 2021 ninety one Children's Disability Network Teams (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, including nursing, occupational therapy, psychology, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, social work and others. The team will work closely together in a family centred model, focusing on the child's and family's own priorities. Every child with complex needs will have access to a team, regardless of the nature of their disability, where they live, or the school they attend.

Children and their families will have access to the full range of services and supports of the 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 will be provided as is feasible in the child's natural environments - their home, school and community.

As required under the Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People (PDS) Programme, CDNTs provide services for children aged 0 – 18 years. In effect these teams replace what were in some areas previously referred to as 'Early Intervention Teams' and 'School Age Teams'. Furthermore, children do not need to go through the Assessment of Need process to be referred to the CDNT. Parents of children with complex needs can refer directly to these teams.

The first step for all areas has been the reconfiguration of existing staff resources into CDNTs. The staffing mix available in each area is influenced by the historical development of services. For



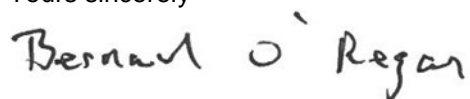
example, some areas may have had a significant number of nurses available for reconfiguration, others may have family support workers or early educators.

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 agreed, so only those posts that have been allocated are included here.

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

Yours sincerely



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