



**Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,**  
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,  
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

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19<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Deputy David Cullinane,  
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Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary questions, which were submitted to this department for response.

**PQ 35645/22**

*To ask the Minister for Health the number of dietitian and psychologist vacancies across children's disability network teams following the CDNT census and the additional posts to which funding was allocated under Budget 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

**PQ 35646/22**

*To ask the Minister for Health the current wait time and length of wait to see a dietitian in a children's disability network team; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -*

**PQ 35647/22**

*To ask the Minister for Health the current wait time to see a psychologist in a children's disability network team; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

**HSE Response**

A Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) Staff Census and Workforce Review was undertaken in October 2021 and a final report has been issued to the Department of Health and relevant stakeholders. This report has provided valuable information on the number of staff working in the CDNTs by discipline and grade and staff vacancies at a point in time. Vacancies continue to be tracked monthly.

Please see the table below which is a summary by discipline taken from the attached National CDNT Census and Workforce Review October 2021. The Psychologist and dietician grades of discipline are highlighted.

Discipline	Approved WTE	Filled WTE	Vacant WTE	% Filled	% Vacant
Speech and Language Therapist	406.65	289.41	117.24	71%	29%
Occupational Therapist	371.04	248.97	122.06	67%	33%
<b>Psychologist</b>	<b>294.54</b>	<b>199.62</b>	<b>94.92</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>32%</b>



Physiotherapist	236.59	161.59	75.00	68%	32%
Social Worker	159.97	117.76	42.21	74%	26%
Administration	129.13	111.90	17.23	87%	13%
Nursing	102.44	85.41	17.03	83%	17%
CDNM	89.00	82.70	6.30	93%	7%
Family Support Worker	23.79	17.96	5.83	75%	25%
<b>Dietician</b>	<b>21.10</b>	<b>6.80</b>	<b>14.30</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>68%</b>
Socialcare Worker	20.76	16.34	4.42	79%	21%
Care Assistant	18.24	13.49	4.75	74%	26%
Play Therapist	9.56	8.36	1.20	87%	13%
Other	5.70	5.70	-	100%	-%
Healthcare Assistant	2.58	0.58	2.00	22%	78%
Early Intervention Educator	1.00	1.00	-	100%	-%
Paediatric Link worker	0.30	0.30	-	100%	-%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,892.38</b>	<b>1,367.88</b>	<b>524.50</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>28%</b>

With regard to the wait time to see a psychologist or dietician in a children's disability network team; the Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) do not collect activity or waiting list data by individual discipline as this does not align with the interdisciplinary model of care. Discipline-specific data is not available in Disability Services.

With regard to the 2022 development posts for the CDNTs, the first tranche of posts were allocated as follows:

<b>CHO</b>	<b>Allocation</b>	<b>FYC</b>
<b>1</b>	11	€803,000
<b>2</b>	5	€365,000
<b>3</b>	4	€292,000
<b>4</b>	14.5	€1,058,500
<b>5</b>	26	€1,898,000
<b>6</b>	4	€292,000
<b>7</b>	24.5	€1,788,500
<b>8</b>	23.5	€1,715,500
<b>9</b>	17.5	€1,277,500
<b>OCFF</b>	4.5	€328,500
<b>Deaf Services Specialist Services</b>	5	€365,000
	9	€657,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>148.5</b>	<b>€10,840,500</b>

The HSE is currently finalising the allocation of the remaining 41.5 posts

Currently there are 24.6 dietitians approved for CDNTs (including 3.5 from 2022 development posts) The allocation of dietitians is as follows:

Dietician	CDNTs
2021 & 2022	
CHO1	2
CHO2	2
CHO3	0
CHO4	2.5
CHO5	7.5
CHO6	0.4



CHO7	2
CHO8	4.4
CHO9	3.8

Currently there are 318.84 Psychologists approved for CDNT'S (to include 24.3 from 2022 development posts). Allocation as follows:

Psychologists CDNTs 2021 & 2022	
CHO1	19.2
CHO2	30.37
CHO3	29
CHO4	48.59
CHO5	29.88
CHO6	27.71
CHO7	48
CHO8	41.56
CHO9	44.53

The information from the Census report is supporting targeted workforce planning by the HSE in consultation with the CDNT Lead Agencies to reinforce the skill mix of their teams to accommodate local population need.

Most of the disciplines working in CDNTs are similar to those working in other areas of the health services including Primary Care Services, Mental Health Services, Older Person Services and Acute Hospitals. The HSE experiences ongoing challenges recruiting staff across a range of disciplines and grades.

There is an acknowledgement Nationally that there are challenges with the supply of therapists and this has required the following disciplines of staff to be placed on the Critical Skills Occupations List.

- Psychologist
- Dietician
- Physiotherapist
- Occupational Therapist
- Speech and Language Therapist

The HSE continues to explore a range of options to enhance the recruitment and retention of essential staff across all aspects of the health services. In addition, the HSE is working collaboratively with the CDNT Lead Agencies at CHO level to market CDNTs as an employer of choice in a competitive employment market. Each lead agency is responsible for recruitment of staff on their CDNTs and is using a variety of approaches to fill funded vacancies.

Yours sincerely



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

