



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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22nd June 2022

Deputy David Cullinane,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: david.cullinane@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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 30124/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of children currently waiting for occupational therapy in tabular form; the length of wait in 3 month timebands; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

The HSE acknowledges the challenges in meeting the demand for children's disability services and is acutely conscious of how this impacts on children and their families.

Children requiring interventions including health and therapy services would access services through Primary Care Teams in CHO Areas as well as through Children's Disability Services.

HSE Disability Services does not gather data on services provided through other service areas such as Primary Care. It is not possible to give information on the number of children aged zero to 18 awaiting first-time intervention in all areas of early intervention, however, Primary Care Operations has compiled the latest available waiting list data, on services for which they collate data, for the end of April 2022 for those aged 0 to 17 years and 11 months. Please see the table on the next page which gives the data for Occupational Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old Patients Awaiting First Time Assessment April 2022.



Occupational Therapy - Number of 0-17 years & 11 months old Patients Awaiting First Time Assessment April 2022											
CHO Area	0 - 4 Yrs 11 Months					5 - 17 Yrs 11 Months					TOTAL
	0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks - ≤ 26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52	> 52 weeks	0 - ≤ 12 weeks	>12 weeks - ≤ 26 weeks	>26 weeks but ≤ 39 weeks	>39 weeks but ≤ 52	> 52 weeks	
CHO1 Total	14	16	32	11	52	101	59	100	92	390	867
CHO2 Total	57	59	46	36	114	241	106	68	111	720	1,558
CHO3 Total	22	18	10	3	1	115	103	65	70	57	464
CHO4 Total	118	147	88	32	27	405	505	562	317	809	3,010
CHO5 Total	55	54	85	51	144	156	230	172	216	1,354	2,517
CHO6 Total	26	18	21	2	5	71	89	44	34	101	411
CHO7 Total	63	88	30	31	40	207	416	134	152	462	1,623
CHO8 Total	119	71	40	28	56	253	176	78	57	326	1,204
CHO9 Total	66	32	33	27	42	195	187	169	186	779	1,716
National Total	540	503	385	221	481	1,744	1,871	1,392	1,235	4,998	13,370

Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs):

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

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.

Work is ongoing on mapping specialised services and supports, and paediatric supports available and gap analysis for children with highly complex needs, in order to develop standardised approaches to integrated pathways of support for CDNTs and Primary Care staff.

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 progress recruitment initiatives for these teams. Each lead agency is responsible for recruitment of staff on their CDNTs and is using a variety of approaches to fill funded vacancies.

A comprehensive PDS national team development programme has been provided for CDNTs and cascaded to all team members. This programme, which was designed to support the establishment of the new CDNTs and to support the implementation of the new model of service, will also support staff retention.

Yours sincerely

Bernard O'Regan

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

