



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.

T: 00353 (0) 61 483369

Suíomh Gréasáin/Website: <http://www.hse.ie>

24th 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 30170/22

To ask the Minister for Health the estimated number of additional therapy hours which would be provided if all vacant whole-time equivalent positions in children's disability network teams were filled, broken down by CHO and by therapy; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 30171/22

To ask the Minister for Health the estimated number of additional therapy hours that would be provided with a 20% increase in whole-time equivalent therapy positions to children's disability network teams; 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. An additional 190 posts have been allocated this year to Children's Disability Services in addition to the 185 posts in 2021, which will support the implementation of family centred services across all CDNTs. These additional posts are intended to support the newly established CDNTs to prioritise intervention for children with complex needs.

A 20% increase of therapist on the CDNTs would equate to circa. 225,199 therapy hours or 234.6 WTE.

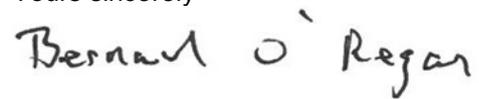
The estimated number of additional therapy hours which would be provided if all vacant whole-time equivalent therapy positions in children's disability network teams were filled, would be approximately 480,780.9 hours spread across all CHOs and therapy disciplines.

The methodology used is outlined in Appendix B of the attached CDNT Staff Census and Workforce Review 2022 Report with an adjustment to account for the Additional Working Hours (HRA) which will be implemented on the 1st July 2022. This will see the available therapy hours per therapist reduce from 1018.5 to 959.70.



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 to offset the impact of the Additional Working Hours (HRA) and to promote CDNTs as an employer of choice by promoting the opportunities available on these teams for young graduates and experienced therapists alike.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernard O'Regan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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