



**Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,**  
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,  
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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 11166/22**

*To ask the Minister for Health the number of children's network disability teams which have been established; the staffing component of each, that is, vacancies and filled posts; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

#### **HSE Response**

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

In 2021, the remainder of 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.

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>

With regard to the staffing component of each CDNT, a staffing census of the Children's Disability Network Teams is currently being undertaken. The information regarding staffing that has been submitted by the CDNTs is currently in draft and an examination and verification of the details is currently in progress. It is envisaged that this information will become available at the end of March or beginning of April.

Much of the expenditure on Disability Services is on staffing and the Strategic Workforce Planning and Intelligence Department of the HSE, as part of the Health Service Personnel Census (HSPC), produce a series of monthly reports detailing the numbers of staffing, per grade type in disability services, broken down by CHO Area and by HSE and Section 38 provider organisations. The latest reports can be accessed and downloaded on the following weblink:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/our-workforce/workforce-reporting/social-care.html>

The Health Service Workforce census figures give a broad indication of the numbers of Health & Social Care professionals employed in Disability Services, which includes personnel employed by the HSE and voluntary Service Providers funded under Section 38 of the Health Act; it does not include staff employed by Service Providers funded under Section 39 of the Health Act. This would include a number of key providers in Children's Disability Services such as Enable Ireland.

It should be noted that the figures refer to staff employed across both adult and children's services. Furthermore, it should also be noted that some children access services via Primary Care services. Primary Care staffing is not included here.

Please see attached Social Care Disability Services Employment Report: January 2022

As you can see overall staffing in disability services (HSE and S38) has increased from over 17,000 wtes at the end of 2017 to almost 19,000 at the end of 2020 and 19,662 at the end of January 2022.

Yours sincerely



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