



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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26th May 2022

Deputy Martin Browne,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: martin.browne@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Browne,

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 24234/22

To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 1554 of 26 April 2022, if he will provide a breakdown of staffing vacancies within CDNTs in CHO3 and CHO5 based on professional disciplines.

HSE Response

In 2021, the remainder of ninety-one 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 (e.g., occupational therapists, psychologists, physiotherapists, speech and language therapists, social workers) and others disciplines (e.g., nursing). The reconfiguration into CDNTs and the resultant staffing mix was influenced by a number of factors including the staff resources of existing services and the expressions of interest process. Hence, some CDNTs may have other disciplines such as nurses, family support workers or early educators.

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.

Since 2019, more than 475 development posts have been allocated to children's disability services across the country. This includes 190 additional therapy posts in the NSP 2022, which is a further substantial increase in the provision of funding in support of the development of the Children's Disability Network Teams, building on the 185 posts provided for in 2021.

These additional posts are intended to support the newly established CDNTs to prioritise intervention for children with complex needs.

A Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) Staff Census and Workforce Review was undertaken in October 2021. The final report has been finalised and 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. This information



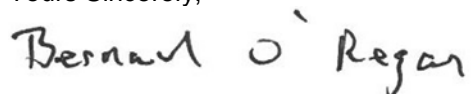
will allow targeted workforce planning by the HSE in consultation with the Children's Disability Network Managers to reinforce the skill mix of their teams to accommodate local population need.

Please see Appendix 1 which gives information regarding approved WTE and vacancy per discipline in CHOs 3 and 5.

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. The HSE continues to explore a range of options to support the recruitment of essential staff across all aspects of the health services. In addition, the HSE works collaboratively with the CDNT Lead Agencies to progress recruitment initiatives for these teams.

Yours Sincerely,



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

Appendix 1 - CHO 3 and 5 Detail by Discipline

Speech and Language Therapist

CHO	Approved WTE	Filled WTE	Vacant WTE	% Filled	% Vacant
CHO3	30.30	22.90	7.40	76%	24%
CHO5	38.09	29.18	8.91	77%	23%

Occupational Therapist

CHO	Approved WTE	Filled WTE	Vacant WTE	% Filled	% Vacant
CHO3	31.27	25.27	6.00	81%	19%
CHO5	30.07	16.47	13.60	55%	45%

Psychologist

CHO	Approved WTE	Filled WTE	Vacant WTE	% Filled	% Vacant
CHO3	27.00	23.50	3.50	87%	13%
CHO5	28.08	17.80	10.28	63%	37%

Physiotherapist

CHO	Approved WTE	Filled WTE	Vacant WTE	% Filled	% Vacant
CHO3	18.91	14.91	4.00	79%	21%
CHO5	19.19	10.39	8.80	54%	46%

Social Worker

CHO	Approved WTE	Filled WTE	Vacant WTE	% Filled	% Vacant
CHO3	13.50	12.30	1.20	91%	9%
CHO5	10.96	8.26	2.70	75%	25%



Administration

CHO	Approved WTE	Filled WTE	Vacant WTE	% Filled	% Vacant
CHO3	19.64	17.14	2.50	87%	13%
CHO5	10.02	8.62	1.40	86%	14%

Nursing

CHO	Approved WTE	Filled WTE	Vacant WTE	% Filled	% Vacant
CHO3	10.40	10.40	-	100%	-%
CHO5	8.24	6.04	2.20	73%	27%

CDNM

CHO	Approved WTE	Filled WTE	Vacant WTE	% Filled	% Vacant
CHO3	7.00	5.80	1.20	83%	17%
CHO5	11.00	11.00	-	100%	-%

Family Support Worker

CHO	Approved WTE	Filled WTE	Vacant WTE	% Filled	% Vacant
CHO3	2.04	1.04	1.00	51%	49%
CHO5	-	-	-	-%	-%

Dietician

CHO	Approved WTE	Filled WTE	Vacant WTE	% Filled	% Vacant
CHO3	-	-	-	-%	-%
CHO5	6.50	1.00	5.50	15%	85%



Socialcare Worker

CHO	Approved WTE	Filled WTE	Vacant WTE	% Filled	% Vacant
CHO3	1.00	1.00	-	100%	-%
CHO5	2.00	1.00	1.00	50%	50%

Care Assistant

CHO	Approved WTE	Filled WTE	Vacant WTE	% Filled	% Vacant
CHO3	-	-	-	-%	-%
CHO5	-	-	-	-%	-%

Play Therapist

CHO	Approved WTE	Filled WTE	Vacant WTE	% Filled	% Vacant
CHO3	5.21	4.21	1.00	81%	19%
CHO5	-	-	-	-%	-%

Other*

CHO	Approved WTE	Filled WTE	Vacant WTE	% Filled	% Vacant
CHO3	2.00	2.00	-	100%	-%
CHO5	1.00	1.00	-	100%	-%

*Other relates to positions in specialist education, liaison officer and behaviour therapist roles

Healthcare Assistant

CHO	Approved WTE	Filled WTE	Vacant WTE	% Filled	% Vacant
CHO3	-	-	-	-%	-%
CHO5	-	-	-	-%	-%

