



Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
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23rd November 2022

Deputy Violet Anne Wynne,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: violet-anne.wynne@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Wynne,

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 58402/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of children in Ireland referred and waiting to be seen by CDNT services by county in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 58403/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of children in Ireland referred and waiting to be seen by CDNT services by length of time waiting in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter

HSE Response

Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs):

In line with the Progressing Disability Services model, resources assigned to children's disability services are allocated to the 0 – 18 Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) rather than to a dedicated early intervention team or dedicated school age team.

All 91 Children's Disability Network Teams are now in place. These teams 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 available skill mix. Hence, some CDNTs may include 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.

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.

National Information Management System for the CDNTs (CDNTIMS)

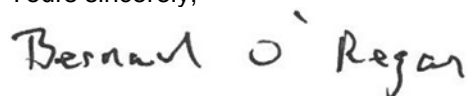
Historically the number of children waitlisted for children's disability services provided by section 38 and section 39 providers has not been available nationally. The establishment of CDNTs will facilitate the collection of this data. A National Management Information System for all 91 CDNTs is in development and when implemented, will provide current data on waiting lists and other details for all CDNTs. In the interim, manual data collection is on-going and will provide information to the local areas regarding the number of children waiting for each CDNT.

The data provided in the table below shows the number of children that are waiting for an initial contact with a CDNT in the 9 CHO Areas: Data for CHO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9 represents end of September 2022 activity. Data from CHO 7 is for end of June 2022.

Status report	CHO 1	CHO 2	CHO 3	CHO 4	CHO 5	CHO 6	CHO 7	CHO 8	CHO 9
No of children waiting 0-3 months for an initial contact @month end	311	197	269	225	146	131	207	400	140
No of children waiting 4-6 months for an initial contact @month end	319	129	218	201	280	167	240	1447	147
No of children waiting 6-12 months for an initial contact @month end	289	827	252	416	851	249	686	569	409
No of children waiting over 12 months for an initial contact @month end	673	62	368	1415	518	626	1323	1471	2295

Please also note that this is an interim dataset as we await the roll out of the National Information Management System and some individual CDNTs indicate that they do not have a system in place to capture this level of activity, therefore there are gaps in data returns for some of the CHO Areas.

Yours sincerely,



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

