



Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

Office of the Head of Operations,
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12th October 2022

Deputy Sean Sherlock,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: sean.sherlock@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

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: 48692/22

To ask the Minister for Health the caseload and headcount of staff and children awaiting intervention in each individual children's disability network team in each CHO in tabular form.

HSE Response

Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs)

In 2021, in line with the Progressing Disability Services model, 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. These teams are aligned to the 96 Community Healthcare Networks.

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.

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 staffing allocated to the CDNTs is provided by Community Healthcare Area (CHO) based on the number of approved posts at the time of the staff census in Oct '21. The attached Census and Workforce Review document provides further detail that may be of interest.

Please note that the information in Table 1 below is given by whole time equivalent (WTE).

Table 1

CHO	Networks	Staffing WTE *
1	7	161.49
2	9	218.55
3	7	168.27
4	14	277.92
5	12	168.15
6	7	174.75
7	11	232.82
8	12	255.59
9	12	241.24
Total	91	1898.78
*Staffing Approved WTE posts as per 2021 staff census		

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.

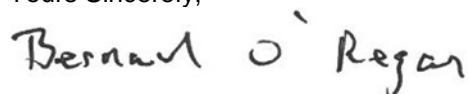
The HSE continues to explore a range of options to enhance the recruitment and retention of essential staff across all aspects of the health services. In addition, the HSE is working collaboratively with the CDNT Lead Agencies at CHO level to market CDNTs as an employer of choice in a competitive employment market. 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 CDNMs 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.

National Information Management System for the CDNTs (CDNTIMS)

A National Management Information System for all 91 CDNTs is in development and when implemented, will provide current data on caseloads 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.

Yours Sincerely,



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

