



17<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Ms. Verona Murphy TD  
Dail Eireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 49119/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of children currently awaiting an assessment with the children's disability network teams in County Wexford; the breakdown of the number of children waiting 24, 36 and 48 months and longer, respectively; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Murphy,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

*I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.*

Unfortunately we are unable to provide this data in the format as requested. The original referral dates to Primary Care Services prior to the reconfiguration of Disability Services on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021 could only be acquired through a manual review of every file.

When children's disability services reconfigured into the Children's Disability Network in September 2021, approximately 300-400 children transferred to each team as open at that time. Most teams also receive on average of 10-15 new referrals per month. Currently there are significant staff vacancies on the network teams and therefore it is not possible to meet the level of demand. The HSE continues efforts to recruit to vacant posts.

We are acutely aware of the high demand for services in our CHO and the impact of delays in accessing services on children and families. In the interim, the Children's Disability Network Managers are exploring different ways to offer support to children and families currently waiting to access services. This includes developing webinars, group based workshops, information sessions and the development of a repository of resources for children and their families to promote and enable wellbeing at home.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

---

**Anne Ennis**  
Head of Service - Disability Services  
South East Community Healthcare