



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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11th October 2022

Deputy Catherine Murphy,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: caatherine.murphy@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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 47163/22

To ask the Minister for Health the staff turnover of orthotists and prosthetists within children's disability services in each of the years 2019 to 2021 and to date in 2022, in tabular form.

HSE Response

Children's disability services are primarily provided by the ninety one Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) that provide services and supports for all children with complex needs within a defined geographic area. Services such as home support, respite and residential services for children with disabilities are also provided by the HSE and a range of Section 38 and Section 39 providers.

CDNTs are teams of health and social care professionals, including nursing, occupational therapy, psychology, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, social work and others. The teams work closely together in a family centred model, focusing on the child's and family's own priorities.

Orthotists and prosthetists do not work on CDNTs. Prosthetics and orthotics are provided based on clinical prescription. In the main, CHOs outsource these services for example to Ottobock Services in Cappagh and the Prosthetics and Orthotic service in National Rehabilitation Services. In addition, the organisation *Ability Matters* was selected as the Strategic Partner of the NRS, following international tender, to provide prosthetic services and clinics around Ireland.

Information is not collated by the HSE regarding staff turnover of orthotists and prosthetists employed by these organisations.

For your information, 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.

These reports do not include staff employed by Service Providers funded under Section 39 of the Health Act.

It is important to note also that the staff numbers reported on serve all age groups and the HSE cannot apportion the staff working in children's disability services specifically.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernard O'Regan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear 'O' and 'R'.

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