



8<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Ms. Verona Murphy TD  
Dail Eireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 9496/23**

**To ask the Minister for Health the total number of children on waiting lists for therapeutic care in each children's disability network team in CHO5 according to each speciality; the average waiting time for an appointment; 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.*

Under the 'Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People' programme (PDS) there have been considerable changes to the way services are provided across the country with services reconfiguring to reflect the new model of service. One of the tenets of the new model of services is an interdisciplinary approach, reflecting the complex needs across domains of development of the children requiring services from the CDNT. Children referred to the CDNT are accepted to the team according to the National Policy on Access to Health Services for Children with Disability or Developmental Delay (2019) due to their complexity of needs across a range of developmental domains, not for individual disciplines. This reflects the requirement for different professionals to work in an interdisciplinary method to meet the needs of children with complex needs arising from their disability. Once children are opened to the service depending on their individual needs identified, goals are set collaboratively with the families that may involve being placed on a wide range of different pathways of care. The CDNTs continue to respond to urgent clinical needs as defined in the National Policy on Prioritisation of Referrals to CDNT's (2016).

The Parliamentary Question posed by you in relation to waiting times for individual specialties does not align with the model of service or with the type of waiting lists we hold and therefore cannot be answered in that way.

The provision of an interdisciplinary model as outlined in PDS and the ratio of staffing to child and family required to respond to complex needs is high. The allocation of staff to the CDNTs is below what is required, even if fully staffed.

All children on CDNT registers are likely to be waiting for some aspect of their intervention. As an interdisciplinary service, vacancies for some disciplines can further restrict the capacity to provide an intervention that requires more than one discipline.

The following table reflects the total number of children assigned to each team. All of these require some level of therapeutic input and may be waiting for one or more interventions.



CDNT	No. of Children Assigned and Accepted to CDNT
CDNT – Network 1 Carlow	614
CDNT – Network 2 Thomastown	284
CDNT – Network 3 Kilkenny (Enable Ire.)	437
CDNT – Network 4 Cashel	418
CDNT – Network 5 Clonmel	607
CDNT – Network 6 Dungarvan	505
CDNT – Network 7 North City Waterford	408
CDNT – Network 7 South City Waterford (under Governance of CRC)	399
CDNT – Network 8 New Ross	257
CDNT – Network 9 Gorey	288
CDNT – Network 10 Wexford	350
CDNT – Network 11 Enniscorthy	386

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

Yours sincerely,

---

**Ms. Anne Ennis**  
**Head of Service, Disability Service**  
**South East Community Healthcare**