



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

Office of the Head of Operations,
Disability Services/Social Care Division,
31-33 Catherine Street, Limerick.

T: 00353 (0) 61 483369
Suíomh Gréasáin/Website: <http://www.hse.ie>

10th March 2023

Deputy Richard Bruton,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: richard.bruton@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Bruton,

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: 9641/23

To ask the Minister for Health the total staff and budget of the National Disability Service, divided across each service and the number of children receiving service in each area.

HSE Response

In Ireland, a wide range of disability services are provided to those with physical, sensory, intellectual disability and autism. Disability services focus on supporting and enabling people with disabilities to maximise their full potential, as independently as possible. Current policies are based on the principles of person-centredness to ensure insofar as possible that the supports for a person are based on individual assessed need, will and preference and to support people to remain as close to home and connected to their community as possible.

Over 60% of the resources available are allocated to provide a range of residential services to approximately 8,300 people with a disability for both children and adults. A further 20% is targeted at the provision of over 18,000 day places, for persons over 18 years of age and supports to nearly 25,000 people. The remaining 20% provides respite care services to just over 5,700 adults and children; almost 5 million personal assistant and home support hours, as well as multi-disciplinary teams and other community services and supports.

The HSE works in partnership with organisations including Section 38, Section 39, Out of State and For Profit organisations to ensure the best level of service possible is provided to people with a disability, and their families, within the available resources. The majority of specialised disability provision (80%) is delivered through non-statutory sector service providers. The relationship between these providers and the HSE is governed by way of a Service Arrangement (SA) or Grant Aid Agreement (GA) via the nine Community Healthcare Organisations. The HSE currently manages 1,045 SAs or GAs with a total of 419 organisations.

Funding

In 2022, Disability Services was allocated c. €2.3 billion to provide a range of services throughout the country and is spent in line with nationally agreed policy for disability services, whilst at the same time endeavouring to maximise value. Services include Residential and Respite Services, Day Services, PA and Home Support Services, Children's Disability Services and Therapeutic Supports.



The summary of funding as per National Service Plan across disability services in 2021 is shown in Table 1 below:Table 1

Service Provided	final 2021
Residential Places	€1,312,414
Day Services	€543,407
Respite	€87,423
PA & Home support (Hours of Service)	€100,613
Multidisciplinary Support (WTE's)	€108,380
Other Community Services & Supports	€58,664
Total	€2,210,900

The summary of funding across disability services in 2022 is shown in Table 2 below:

Table 2

Service Provided	Final Nsp 2022
Residential Places	€1,368,021
Day Services	€580,489
Respite	€96,465
PA & Home support (Hours of Service)	€109,809
Multidisciplinary Support (WTE's)	€133,251
Other Community Services & Supports	€59,346
Total	€2,347,380

Staffing

The HSE is the largest employer in the State, with more than 67,000 direct employees, and a further 35,000 employed by agencies funded by the HSE.

Information pertaining to staffing levels in health services are generated by the HSE Strategic Workforce Planning & Intelligence Unit.

Information is available per care group area.

The most recent reports available are end of January 2023. The overall Whole Time Equivalent (all grades and disciplines) working in Disability Services at this time is 23, 624 WTE.

Further information can be obtained at the following weblink:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/our-workforce/workforce-reporting/social-care.html>

It is important to note that the reports available at this website serve all age groups and the HSE cannot apportion the staff working in children's disability services specifically.

Additionally the reports refer to staff numbers in the HSE and in S38 organisations and do not include staff employed in S39 organisations.



Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs):

91 Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) are aligned to 96 Community Healthcare Networks (CHNs) across the country and are providing services and supports for children aged from birth to 18 years of age.

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.

CDNTs are teams of health and social care professionals, including nursing, occupational therapy, psychology, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, social work, dietetics and others. The team works closely together in a family centred model, focusing on the child's and family's own priorities. Services are provided following individual assessment according to the child's individual requirements and support needs.

The 2022 Children's Disability Network Team Staff Census and Workforce Review National Report provides detail of the staffing by Community Healthcare Organisation and is attached for your information.

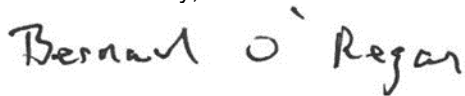
An overall analysis of the data from 2021 and 2022 demonstrates an increase of 11% in the number of approved posts and a 2% increase in the CDNT workforce

National Information Management System for the CDNTs (CDNTIMS)

The development and testing of the National Children's Disability Network Team Information Management System (CDNTIMS) is currently taking place. When implemented, will provide information pertaining to the CDNTs.

Validated data on CDNT caseloads is not currently available.

Yours Sincerely,



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

