



**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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1<sup>st</sup> February 2023

Deputy Pauline Tully,  
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Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
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Dear Deputy Tully,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary questions, which were submitted to this department for response.

**PQ: 1186/23**

*To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide this Deputy with the Children's Disability Network Team Staff Census and Workforce Review 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

**PQ: 3305/23**

*To ask the Minister for Health the estimated staff to service user ratio for each CDNT post (details supplied) in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Details supplied: Physiotherapist, Psychologist, Occupational Therapist, Speech and Language Therapist, Social Worker, Administration, Nursing, Family Support Worker, Dietician, Socialcare Worker, Play Therapist, Early Intervention Educator, Paediatric Linkworker

**HSE Response**

Since 2019, more than 610 development posts have been allocated to children's disability services across the country. These posts have been assigned to teams based on a number of factors, including the existing ratio of staff to the number of children with disabilities in each area. This figure includes 190 posts provided in 2022 as well as an additional 136.3 WTEs to restore pre-existing services in 104 special schools.

These additional posts are intended to support the newly established CDNTs to prioritise intervention for children with complex needs in special schools.

**Retention and Recruitment**

The HSE and Lead Agencies are operating in a very competitive global market for healthcare talent as there are significant shortages of qualified healthcare professionals across the globe.

In partnership with our CDNT Lead Agencies, we continue to explore a range of options to enhance the retention and recruitment of essential staff into our CDNTs. The HSE Community Operations Disability Services is working



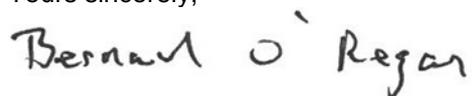
collaboratively with our partnering Lead Agencies to promote CDNTs as a workplace of choice in a competitive employment market.

The lead agencies and the number of teams they lead are: HSE (41 teams), Enable Ireland (20 teams), Avista (formerly Daughters of Charity - 4 teams) Brothers of Charity (6 teams), Central Remedial Clinic (5 teams), St. Michael's House (4 teams), Cope Foundation (3 teams), St. Gabriel's (2 teams), St. Josephs Foundation (2 teams), Stewarts Care (2 teams), with CoAction West Cork and KARE leading 1 team each. Each lead agency is responsible for recruitment of staff on their CDNTs and is using a variety of approaches to fill funded vacancies.

In addition to national initiatives to support the recruitment of staff for the CDNTs, the HSE has launched International Recruitment campaigns for qualified healthcare professionals. To support these international campaigns, the HSE is working in partnership with CORU, the regulator, and government departments to maximise this pool. Some of the CDNT Lead Agencies are also progressing International Recruitment.

With regard to the estimated staff to service user ratio for each CDNT post, the report of the 2022 CDNT Staff Census and Workforce Review is being finalised. This will contain the most up to date information regarding staffing including ratio of staff to children on caseloads. The Census will be provided to you in due course.

Yours sincerely,



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

