



Head of Service  
Disability Services

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South East Community Healthcare,  
HSE, Lacken, Dublin Road,  
Kilkenny

t 087 4533711

25<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Mr. Jackie Cahill TD  
Dail Eireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 63364/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of children who are currently on a waiting list to be seen by a psychologist in the south Tipperary children's disability network team; the total number of patients that the children's disability network team has in south Tipperary; the staffing levels that are in place in the south Tipperary children's disability network team; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Cahill,

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.*

Within the Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) – Network 5 Clonmel 276 children are awaiting diagnostic assessment, 251 children are awaiting an Autism Diagnosis and 23 children are awaiting Intellectual Disability/Global Developmental Delay/Multidisciplinary assessment. Since the reconfiguration of services CDNT Clonmel have completed 83 assessments and there are a further 18 open at present. Therefore the total completed and/or in progress is 101.

In CDNT – Network 4 Cashel there are 95 children awaiting diagnostic assessments, of which 18 are awaiting cognitive assessment, 12 children are waiting an ASD and cognitive assessment and the remaining 65 children are awaiting an autism assessment. There are currently 7 assessments in progress. 24 diagnostic assessments have been completed since reconfiguration and 4 diagnostic assessments have been declined since reconfiguration.

In the number of Whole Time Equivalent Posts (WTE) in Cashel is 15.2 WTE and at present there are 4 WTE vacancies and in Clonmel the number of WTE posts is 18.25 with 5.51 vacancies.

As with other areas Disability Services within South East Community Healthcare are experiencing significant recruitment challenges. SECH continues to express posts out to current national panels and continues to prioritise local recruitment campaigns.

The HSE have also commenced an international recruitment campaign for therapy staff and it is hoped that we will be in a position to fill more vacancies from this process. The interviews are scheduled to take place in the next coming weeks.

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

Yours sincerely,

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**Ms. Karen Fitzgerald**  
**A/Head of Service, Disability Service**  
**South East Community Healthcare**

