



26<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Mr Paul Donnelly TD,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

Email: [paul.donnelly@oireachtas.ie](mailto:paul.donnelly@oireachtas.ie)

**PQ 35783/23** *“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of WTE clinical psychologists and senior medical social workers based at Blakestown and Blanchardstown children's disability network teams in 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023, in tabular form” Paul Donnelly, TD*

Dear Deputy Donnelly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The table below outlines the number of whole-time equivalent (WTE) Psychologists and Social Workers approved for Blakestown and Blanchardstown Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNT's) in 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023.

CDNT Network	Blanchardstown	Blakestown	Blanchardstown	Blakestown
	No of WTE approved Psychologist	No of WTE approved Psychologist	No of WTE approved Social Workers	No of WTE Social approved Workers
2021	3.56	4.31	2	2.09
2022	3.85	4.80	2	2.80
2023 (allocated)	3.85	5.25	2	2.80
2023 (Currently filled)	2.80	2.25	2	2.55

In addition, both the Blanchardstown and Blakestown CDNT's have approval for a temporary whole-time Psychology Assistants (1 WTE each). The post in Blakestown CDNT has been filled, while the Blanchardstown CDNT post is currently vacant and recruitment is ongoing.

Senior Medical Social Worker posts are not included in the CDNT model and therefore, neither Blakestown and Blanchardstown CDNTs have one.

HSE Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC) Disability Services with the Central Remedial Clinic, St Michael's House and Avista are running a targeted international recruitment campaign for the staff grades referenced above and interviews are ongoing. Concurrently CHO DNCC have undertaken to increase administrative support to all the CDNTs, to enable existing clinical staff to devote more of their time directly to children and families.

I trust this information clarifies this matter for you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Olive Hanley". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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**Ms Olive Hanley**  
**Head of Service for Disability**