Head of Service
Disability Services

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12th June 2023

Ms. Kathleen Funchion TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 27626/23
To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of WTE behaviour therapists working in children's disability network teams based in County Kilkenny in 2022 and to-date in 2023, in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Funchion,

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.

The number of WTE Behavioural Therapists working in the Children's Disability Network Teams based in County Kilkenny in 2022 and to date in 2023 is as follows:

Children's Disability Network Team	Behavioural Therapists
CDNT Network 3 – Enable Ireland	1 WTE – 1 year contact commenced 13/02/23
CDNT Network 2 – Thomastown	0 WTE

As with other areas Disability Services within South East Community Healthcare (SECH) are continuing to experience significant recruitment challenges. The HSE is operating in a very competitive market as there are significant shortages of qualified healthcare professionals nationally and internationally. South East Community Healthcare continues to prioritise local competitions for all disciplines and continues to express posts out to current national panels where relevant.

The HSE acknowledges that waiting times for CDNT service at this time are stressful for children and their families, and will continue to explore a range of options to enhance the recruitment and retention of essential staff into our CDNTs.

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