



**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>

15<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Deputy Roisin Shortall,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
E-mail: [roisin.shortall@oireachtas.ie](mailto:roisin.shortall@oireachtas.ie)

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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 12155/23**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth following publication of the 2022 Children's Disability Network Team Staff Census and Workforce Review, if he will provide a definition of therapy hours which clearly outlines the types of activities covered (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

**PQ 12156/23**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the cost of running children's disability network teams by CHO, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

**PQ 12157/23**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of hours a WTE Children's Disability Network Team employee is expected to work each year by discipline, in tabular form; if training is included in this figure; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

**HSE Response**

The HSE has rolled out ninety one Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNT) across the country in partnership with HSE funded voluntary organisations to provide equity of access for all children with complex disability to specialised services and supports as close to a child's home as possible.

These CDNTs comprise health and social care professionals, including nursing, occupational therapy, psychology, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, social work, dietetics and others and the



hours worked by WTE range from 35 to 37 per week.

The table below from the Children's Disability Network Team Staff Census and Workforce Review 2022 Report outlines the therapy hours available for children and their families and the methodology used to calculate those hours. The methodology has subtracted from the total available time a proportion of hours to facilitate training and hours required to undertake the administrative duties associated with service delivery.

Methodology	Hours
35 hours per week * 42 weeks per year (52 less AL / PH etc.)	1470.00
Break per day @ 20 min per day	69.30
Admin (20% Total Hours)	294.00
Training / Planning (10% Total Hours)	147.00
<b>Total Deductions</b>	<b>510.30</b>
<b>(A) Total number of therapy hours available per WTE</b>	<b>959.70</b>
<b>(B) Total therapy / clinical net of admin / management</b>	<b>1,183.01</b>
<b>(A * B) Total number of therapy hours available per annum</b>	<b>1,135,334.03*</b>

The therapy hours calculated are for the delivery of assessments and interventions which will be universal, targeted or one to one based on the clinical need of the children and their families.

Clinicians on CDNTs allocate their time between assessments and interventions based on a number of factors, including the legislative requirement of AON under the Disability Act 2005, the National Prioritisation Policy for CDNTs, their clinical judgement, caseload management and current service demands.

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.

Please see Appendix B of the Census Report (page 35). This gives information on Therapy Hours Calculation. Calculations make allowances for therapists' annual leave entitlements and training.

Standard whole time contracted hours vary according to staff discipline. For example: for nursing staff the standard hours are 37.5 hours per week, health and social care staff, including therapy staff, 35 hours per week and for management and administrative grades, the standard working week is 35 hours per week.

Staff Annual leave allowances vary across grades.

With regard to the cost of running children's disability network teams, each CDNT has a small non-pay budget. The pay budget for each CDNT varies depending on the number, grade and discipline of its approved posts.

The 2022 Census Report (attached) outlines the variations across the CDNTs.

An allocation of €6.9m in non pay funding has been allocated to the Community Health Care Areas (CHOs) for the CDNTs in February 2023.

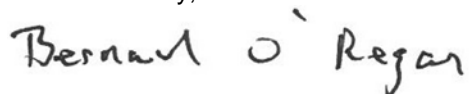
The true cost based on full capacity is anticipated to be €13.1m.



Please see the table below, which outlines the non pay funding so far in 2023 across the CHO areas.

CHO	Total CDNT Non Pay 12%	2023 alloc
1	€1,014,876	€531,563
2	€1,532,618	€802,742
3	€1,197,581	€627,259
4	€1,964,609	€1,029,007
5	€1,148,374	€601,486
6	€1,216,614	€637,228
7	€1,722,427	€902,158
8	€1,700,844	€890,854
9	€1,675,734	€877,702
	<b>€13,173,678</b>	<b>€6,900,000</b>

Yours sincerely,



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