



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,
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5th April 2023

Deputy Roisin Shortall,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: 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 14369/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth further to Parliamentary Question No. 282 of 9 March 2023, to provide the cost of CDNTs covering non-pay and pay related expenses, as well as any other category of expenses, by category, in tabular form.

PQ 14368/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth further to Parliamentary Question No. 282 of 9 March 2023, the types of expenses that are covered by non-pay expenses; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 14367/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth further to Parliamentary Question No. 282 of 9 March 2023, to clarify if any diagnostic assessments are being outsourced to private providers; and if so, the number that were outsourced in 2021 and 2022, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 14366/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth further to Parliamentary Question No. 282 of 9 March 2023, to provide a breakdown of therapy hours by assessments and intervention type, in tabular form

HSE Response

91 Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) are aligned to 96 Community Healthcare Networks (CHNs) across the country and are providing services and supports for children aged from birth to 18 years of age.



Regardless of the nature of their disability, where they live, or the school they attend, every child with complex needs and their families have access to the full range of family centred services and supports of their CDNT according to their individual needs. This includes universal, targeted and specialist supports, such as individual therapeutic intervention and access to specialist consultation and assessment when needed. Supports are provided as is feasible in the child's natural environments - their home, school and community.

Work is ongoing on mapping specialised services and supports, and paediatric supports available and gap analysis for children with highly complex needs, in order to develop standardised approaches to integrated pathways of support for CDNTs and Primary Care staff.

CDNTs are teams of health and social care professionals, including nursing, occupational therapy, psychology, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, social work, dietetics and others. The team works closely together in a family centred model, focusing on the child's and family's own priorities.

With regard to the cost of CDNTs, 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. Please see table below.

The true cost of CDNT Non Pay Budget based on full capacity up to and including 2021 is €13.1m. This does not include development posts of 2022 or increases due to increase in staff pay since 2021.

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
	€13,173,678	€6,900,000

Please see the attached National Policy on Non Pay Budget for Children's Disability Network Team. A list of the type of non pay expenses which may be incurred is provided on page 7.

With regard to a breakdown of therapy hours by assessments and intervention type, this information is not collated.

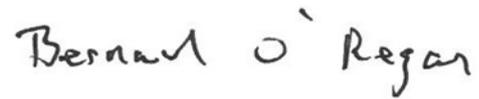
Clinicians on CDNTs allocate their time between assessments and interventions based on a number of factors, including the legislative requirement of AON under the Disability Act 2005, the National Prioritisation Policy for CDNTs, their clinical judgement, caseload management and current service demands.



Approximately €11m has been allocated to address waiting lists for clinical assessments identified through the Assessment of Need process. This funding will be utilised to procure diagnostic ASD assessments from the private sector. A successful procurement process will facilitate the Children's Disability Network Teams to focus on the provision of intervention for children on their caseloads.

Diagnostic assessments are sourced locally, based on a number of factors, include demand for Assessment of Need, available staff and unfilled posts. This figure is not collated nationally.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernard O'Regan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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