



**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>

31<sup>st</sup> May 2023

Deputy Holly Cairns,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
E-mail: [holly.cairns@oireachtas.ie](mailto:holly.cairns@oireachtas.ie)

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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: 23314/22**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if he will outline the staffing to caseload ratios used to calculate the numbers, types, and scale of therapists and clinicians required for each CDNT; how regularly these ratios are reviewed; and the processes in place to reconfigure services according to local needs*

**PQ: 23317/22**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if exit interviews are conducted with therapists leaving CDNTs; if the information from these interviews is anonymously collated; if so, the primary reasons individuals cite for leaving CDNTs; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

**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.

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.

Staff on CDNTs may be employed by the HSE or by one of the Section 38 or Section 39 partner organisations. All staff on the CDNTs report to a Children's Disability Network Manager who is employed by one of the eleven Lead Agencies. Each employer and lead agency will have their own distinct HR processes. While the HSE requires the CDNTs to conduct exit interviews with staff, the information arising from these interviews is not collated nationally.



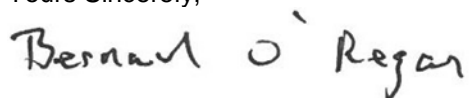
In addition to the five most common health and social care professionals on CDNTs nationally i.e. occupational therapists, physiotherapists, psychologists, speech and language therapists and social workers, there are a varied range of other disciplines on the teams following reconfiguration of existing posts in disability service providers to CDNTs under PDS.

The HSE is commissioning an independent review of the CDNT service model that will consider the competencies and skill mix required to inform CDNT composition.

The HSE experiences ongoing challenges recruiting staff across a range of disciplines and grades.

The HSE continues to explore a range of options to enhance the retention and recruitment of essential staff across all aspects of the health services. In addition, the HSE is working collaboratively with the CDNT Lead Agencies at CHO level to market CDNTs as an employer of choice in a competitive employment market. Each lead agency is responsible for recruitment of staff on their CDNTs and is using a variety of approaches to fill funded vacancies.

Yours Sincerely,

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

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

