



Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

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14th September 2023

Deputy Pauline Tully,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: pauline.tully@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Tully,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary question, which was submitted to this department for response.

PQ: 37738/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth further to Parliamentary Question No. 358 of 13 July 2023, the number of (details supplied) from non-EEA countries that were issued with employment permits that subsequently took up this role here; and the number of these that were recruited to Childrens Disability Network Teams.

Details Supplied: Psychologist, Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapist, Speech and Language Therapist, Therapy Professional n.e.c.

HSE Response

An efficient and responsive Employment Permit system is a critical component to ensure that talent is attracted to Ireland from non-EEA countries.

In June 2022, changes were introduced to the eligible occupations lists to help alleviate skills shortages in the health sector. The roles of psychologist, physiotherapist, occupational therapist, speech and language therapist, and therapy professional (Orthoptist) were added to the critical skills permit list, the permit type used to attract highly skilled professionals into employment in the state.

As per response to Question 358 at the Dáil Éireann Debate, Thursday - 13 July 2023, the table below provides details of the number of Employment Permit applications issued, refused and withdrawn, in respect of the above-mentioned occupations by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and at the Department of Social Protection since June 2022.

Soc Code	Soc Title	Issued	Refused	Withdrawn
2212	Psychologists	11	5	



2221	Physiotherapists	56	3	1
2222	Occupational therapists	22	2	1
2223	Speech and language therapists	3		
2229	Therapy professionals n.e.c.	6	2	1

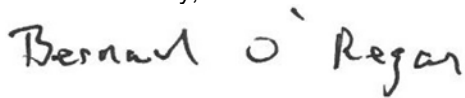
Children's Disability Network Teams staffing

CDNTs are teams of health and social care professionals, including nursing, occupational therapy, psychology, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, social work, dietetics and others.

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.

In October 2023, the HSE will undertake its third Children's Disability Network Team Staff Census and Workforce Review 2023. This will provide further concise and validated information regarding staffing, vacancies and success of retention and recruitment initiatives being undertaken.

Yours Sincerely,



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

