



Oifig an Stiúrthóir Cúnta Náisiúnta,
Foireann Míchumais Náisiúnta,
An Chéad Uirlár - Oifigí 13, 14, 15,
Áras Phlásóg na Rós, Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,
Páirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta,
Caladh an Treoigh,
Luimneach.

Office of the Assistant National Director,
National Disability Team,
First Floor- Offices 13, 14, 15,
Roselawn House, University Business Complex,
National Technology Park,
Castletroy,
Limerick

25th April 2024

Deputy Paul Murphy,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: paul.murphy@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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: 12497/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the reason the HSE, CDNTs and CHOs do not employ behavioural therapists.

HSE Response

A robust evidence base is essential to support healthcare professionals in the design, delivery and evaluation of high quality health services', (Slaintecare, 2017).

The HSE's Strategic Workforce Planning and Intelligence Unit is responsible for building this evidence base through the provision of high quality and timely data, information and analysis on the workforce. It has overarching responsibility for the production of employment monitoring reports/Health Service Personnel Census (HSPC), National Absence Report and Staff Turnover Reports.

While the most recent Health Service Personnel census (February 2024) does not specify numbers of "Behaviour Therapists" employed, it gives data on staff disciplines such as psychologists, medical staff therapists, nurses, and other health and social care professions who may be Behaviour Therapists or part of whose role and service delivery may also include the provision behaviour therapy.

Please see:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/our-workforce/workforce-reporting/employment-reports.html>

(Please note that these reports refer to staff number in the HSE and in S38 organisations and do not include staff employed in S39 organisations)

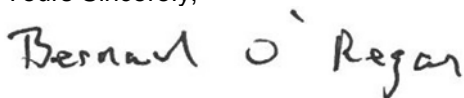
In addition, to meet the needs and requirements of service users, carers and staff receive information and training in the management of behaviours of concern including training such as de-escalation intervention techniques and positive behaviour supports.

With regard to the Children's Disability Network Teams, 91 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.

The CDNTs are currently providing services and supports for 45,741 children and strategies and supports for urgent cases on the waitlist where staffing resources allow.

While there are some staff categorised as "behaviour specialists" or "behaviour support workers" who are part of the interdisciplinary Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) under Progressing Disability Services (PDS) supported by the Psychologists (and others who have related qualifications), other CDNT members can provide behavioural therapy to address the behavioural aspects of relevant children (e.g., those with ASD who feel overwhelmed and hence who present with behaviours that challenge).

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernard O'Regan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

Bernard O'Regan
Assistant National Director,
Disability Services Team