



Oifig an Stiúrthóir Cúnta Náisiúnta,
Foireann Míchumais Náisiúnta,
An Chéad Urlár - 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.

15th April 2025

Deputy Alan Kelly,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: alan.kelly@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Kelly,

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: 16880/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of student placements of physiotherapists that were offered for CDNTs in 2023 and 2024, in tabular form.

HSE Response

Childrens Disability Services

93 Childrens Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) are aligned to 96 Community Healthcare Networks (CHNs) across the country and are currently providing services and supports for 43,000 children and strategies and supports for urgent cases on the waitlist where staffing resources allow.

The model of service for all CDNTs is family-centred and based on the needs of the child. This includes universal, targeted and specialised supports and interventions, as appropriate to the individual child and family. It is based on the objectives of empowering and supporting parents and others who are with the child on a daily basis to facilitate the child's developmental needs.

Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023 – 2026, Disability Services for Children and Young People

The HSE's Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023 – 2026, Disability Services for Children and Young People is a targeted Service Improvement Programme to achieve a quality, accessible, equitable and timely service for all children with complex needs as a result of a disability and their families.

The Roadmap has four Working Groups reporting into a Service Improvement Programme Board every month which in turn reports to the Roadmap Oversight Group chaired by the Minister of State.



Working Group 3: Workforce – has 21 actions dedicated to Retention of specialised CDNT staff, Recruitment of new graduates and experienced staff for all CDNTs, Deployment of Students/Trainees/New Graduates and Development of Existing Staff.

Student / Clinical Placements.

Action 3.2 All teams will provide student placements on a pro rata basis to the number of filled posts on their teams in line with National Guidance to be issued.

Academic year 2022/2023: A total of 243 student placements were provided across all teams in OT, PT, SW, SLT, Psychology, Dietetics and Nursing.

In May 2024, a national target for all teams was set at 1 student placement per year per 2 filled HSCP/Nursing posts in each discipline on each CDNT. With a national target of 337 student placements, this would realise an increase of 94 students or 38%. In June 2024, a webinar was held for CDNT staff to share their positive experiences of personal, professional and team development, and student practice education experience and feedback.

Academic year 2023/2024: A total of 330 student placements were provided across all teams. This was an increase of 30% over the previous academic year.

With regard to Physiotherapy student placements, please see the table below.

Table: National Summary. Student Placement programme across CDNTs.

| Physiotherapy | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Filled posts 2022 | Placements provided 2022/3 | Filled posts 2023 | Placements provided 2023/4 | Placements to be provided 2024/5 |
| 160 | 29 | 153.03 | 31 | 42 |

Data for Academic year 2024/2025 will be available in August 2025.

In addition, just to note, as per Action 3.20, the CORU registration process has been successfully expedited to 5 days for graduates trained in Ireland and from 87 to 47 days for international graduates

Yours Sincerely,

Bernard O'Regan
Assistant National Director,
Access and Integration,
National Disability Services

