

25th April 2025

John Connolly TD,
Dail Eireann,
Kildare St,
Dublin 2.

PQ/17525/25

“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the staffing cohort at the CDNT at the West Galway Children's Disability Network Team; if the service is currently operating with a full cohort of staff; what roles within the West Galway CDNT are currently vacant; and if she will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Connolly,

I refer to PQ/17525/25 uploaded on the PAD System on the 3rd April 2025 and due for response on the 22nd April 2025 regarding representations that you have made to the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth concerning “the staffing cohort at the CDNT at the West Galway Children's Disability Network team; if the service is currently operating with a full cohort of staff; what roles within the West Galway CDNT are currently vacant; and if she will make a statement on the matter.” The HSE has been requested to reply directly to you on this matter. I apologise for the late response in this reply. The following response outlines the position.

CDNT 4 Staffing Allocation

	Allocated Staffing	Staff in Post	Vacant
Occupational Therapists	3	1	2
Speech and Language Therapists	5	5	0
Physiotherapists	2	2	0
Psychologists	3.3	3.3	0
Nursing	1	1	0
Dietician	0.5	0.5	0
Social Work	1	1	0
Behaviour Support	0.5	0	0.5
Children's Disability Network Manager	1	1	0
Clerical Supports	2.4	1.4	1
<i>No. of children: 390 on the team's caseload. (April 2025)</i>			

CDNT 4 had significant staff vacancy rates and recruitment challenges since the development of CDNT in October 2021. Following stringent recruitment campaigns and HSE initiatives both locally and nationally the current vacancies are noted above. Staff turnover since 2021 has been high and is particularly challenging given the level of experience and competencies required by staff working in Children's Disability Network Teams.

I trust that this response has clarified the matter that you have raised in this instance.

Yours sincerely

Children's Disability Manager
Community Healthcare West