



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.

6<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Deputy David Cullinane  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
E-mail: [david.cullinane@oireachtas.ie](mailto:david.cullinane@oireachtas.ie)

**PQ: 21546/25**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of children on disability service waiting lists for children's disability networks teams, by CHO/CDNT at the end of quarter 1 of each year 2019, 2024, and 2025, in tabular form; the average length of wait; and if she will make a statement on the matter.*

**PQ: 21549/25**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of children on disability service waiting lists for children's disability networks teams, by CHO/CDNT at the end of March each year 2019, 2024, and 2025, in tabular form; the average length of wait; and if she will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

Thank you for your Parliamentary Questions referenced above, which have been forwarded to me for direct reply.

**Childrens Disability Services**

In line with the Progressing Disability Services model, 93 Children's Disabilities 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, and their families.

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.

The CDNTs are currently providing services and supports for 43,000 children and strategies and supports for urgent cases on the waitlist where staffing resources allow. However, there are significant challenges for CDNTs including:

- Significant staffing vacancies
- Growth in numbers of children with complex needs as a result of their disability.
- Growth in demand for Assessment of Need, diverting further resources away from interventions

**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. It sets out the overall aim for Children's Disability Services, provided by the HSE and its partner agencies, for every child to have a childhood of inclusive experiences where they can have fun, learn, develop interests and skills, and form positive relationships with others in a range of different settings.

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



These groups include:

**Working Group 1 Integrated Children's Services** – has responsibility for the implementation of National Access Policy (NAP) and the Primary Care, Disability, CAMHS Joint Working Protocol (JWP), Equity of Access to Aids and Appliances across all CHOs; and the Review of HSE Tusla Joint Protocol.

**Working Group 2: Service Access and Improvement** – has responsibility for Waitlist Management and Services; Optimising Teams Efficiencies, Effectiveness and Governance; AONs overdue for completion; and the development of a National Capital plan to enable all staff of a CDNT to be co-located.

**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.

**Working Group 4: Communication and Engagement** – has responsibility for developing and ensuring the delivery of a rolling Communication Plan for the Roadmap and CDNT service, which is a key priority; review and updating the HSE PDS Website to meet information needs of families, further Staff Engagement and Workshop days and ensuring sustainability of the Family Forums and Family Representative Groups.

### Waiting List for the Childrens Disability Services

Historically the number of children waitlisted for children's disability services provided by section 38 and section 39 providers has not been available nationally. The establishment of CDNTs in 2021 has facilitated the collection of this data. A National Information Management System for all 93 CDNTs is being rolled out and when implemented, will provide current data on waiting lists and other details for all CDNTs.

Pending full roll-out to all 93 CDNTs, manual data collection is currently in place nationally as an interim measure.

The table below is the validated data for the end of April 2025 activity reports. This shows the number of children that are waiting for an initial contact with a CDNT in the 6 Regional Healthcare Areas (RHAs.)

#### April 2025

National CDNT Interim Metrics ( April 2025)	HSE West and North West	HSE Midwest	HSE South West	HSE Dublin and South East	HSE Dublin Midlands	HSE Dublin and North East	Total
No. of children waiting 0-3 months for an initial CDNT contact @ month end	278	135	155	177	284	308	1337
No. of children waiting 4-6 months for an initial CDNT contact @ month end	113	137	105	144	243	223	965
No. of children waiting 7-12 months for an initial CDNT contact @ month end	138	268	104	274	392	330	1506
No. of children waiting over 12 months for an initial CDNT contact @ month end	290	530	270	2112	2116	2980	8298
<b>Total no. of children on the CDNT waiting list @ month end.</b>	<b>819</b>	<b>1070</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>2707</b>	<b>3035</b>	<b>3841</b>	<b>12106</b>

In addition, 1,233 children (&/or their parents) who are on the CDNT waiting list participated in one or more individual and/or group intervention appointments during April 2025.

Prior to 2023, CDNT data was not collated nationally, however we can provide you with the CDNT waiting lists in December 2023 and in December 2024- See Appendix 1.

Please also note that this is an interim dataset as we await the roll out of the National Information Management System and some individual CDNTs indicate that they do not have a system in place to capture this level of activity, therefore there are gaps in data returns for some of the CHO Areas.



Yours Sincerely,

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Dr. Aoife O'Donohue,  
Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta Cúntóir, Seirbhísí Mhíchumas, Rochtain agus Imeascadh,  
Assistant National Director, Disability Services, Transformation & Programme Coordination,  
Access & Integration



## Appendix 1

### National CDNT Interim metrics

#### End of December 2023

Status report	CHO 1	CHO 2	CHO 3	CHO 4	CHO 5	CHO 6	CHO 7	CHO 8	CHO 9
No of children waiting 0-3 months for an initial contact @month end	357	149	303	150	87	34	149	377	75
No of children waiting 4-6 months for an initial contact @month end	257	213	295	147	112	85	114	401	82
No of children waiting 7-12 months for an initial contact @month end	327	260	308	176	209	231	341	505	191
No of children waiting over 12 months for an initial contact @month end	374	378	431	467	1217	1049	2029	1064	2484

#### End of December 2024

Status report	CHO 1	CHO 2	CHO 3	CHO 4	CHO 5	CHO 6	CHO 7	CHO 8	CHO 9
No of children waiting 0-3 months for an initial contact @month end	109	175	247	157	82	61	151	296	48
No of children waiting 4-6 months for an initial contact @month end	70	102	157	120	83	74	153	178	62
No of children waiting 7-12 months for an initial contact @month end	58	136	298	104	150	138	325	282	128
No of children waiting over 12 months for an initial contact @month end	405	242	605	305	1091	1228	1942	800	2358