



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.

31st July 2025

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

PQ: 38131/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the number of children on waiting lists for initial contact for each children's disability network team at the end of June in each of the years 2022 to 2025, in tabular form.

PQ: 38132/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the number and percentage of children in receipt of partial services from each of the children's disability network teams, in tabular form.

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, all 93 CDNTs, aligned to 96 Community Healthcare Networks (CHNs) across the country, are in place and are providing services and supports for children aged from birth to 18 years of age.

Each CDNT covers a specific geographical area and holds a waiting list for children with complex needs residing in that area.

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 44,000 children and strategies and supports for urgent cases on the waitlist where staffing resources allow.

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

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.

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 June 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). In line with best practice guidelines, CDNTs use a multidisciplinary approach to assessment and intervention. In this context, the CDNTs do not collect activity data by individual discipline (such as SLT, Physiotherapy, OT etc) as this does not align with the interdisciplinary model of care.

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 by Community Healthcare Area. Please see **Appendix 1**.

End of June 2025

National CDNT Interim Metrics (June 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	137	186	185	219	298	1303
No. of children waiting 4-6 months for an initial CDNT contact @ month end	139	143	124	153	240	268	1067
No. of children waiting 7-12 months for an initial CDNT contact @ month end	129	256	115	278	340	306	1424
No. of children waiting over 12 months for an initial CDNT contact @ month end	233	616	200	1977	2087	2054	7167
Total no. of children on the CDNT waiting list @ month end.	779	1152	625	2593	2886	2926	10961

In addition, 1,205 children (&/or their parents) who are on the CDNT waiting list participated in one or more individual and/or group intervention appointments during June 2025.



With regard to the number of children in receipt of partial services from each of the children's disability network teams, the level of detail required is not currently available but will be once all teams are on the CDNTIMS in 2026.

However please see the table below which provides information on services provided. There are 44,232 children on the CDNTs caseload and whilst not all received services this month, they may have last month, based on multiple factors including

- Child and family availability (decreases during peak holiday times/school closures)
- Status of their current IFSP in operation e.g. active therapies or currently applying strategies learned before returning for further supports
- Waitlisted for 1 or more disciplines

End of June 2025

National CDNT Interim Metrics (June 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 &/or their parents who participated in an initial contact this month	34	84	78	90	66	143	495
No. of children &/or their parents who participated in individual intervention appointment this month	1123	785	1631	2076	2704	3091	11410
No. of children &/or their parents who participated in a group intervention appointment this month	257	197	219	329	471	553	2026
Total No. of children &/or their parents who participated in an initial contact, an individual or group intervention appointment this month	1414	1066	1928	2495	3241	3787	13931
No. of children on open caseload @ month end	5836	6121	7751	6503	8730	9291	44232

Yours Sincerely,

Tom McGuirk,
General Manager, Disability Services, Access & Integration



Appendix 1

Table 1: National CDNT Interim Metrics end of December 2023

National CDNT Interim Metrics (December 2023)	CHO 1	CHO 2	CHO 3	CHO 4	CHO 5	CHO 6	CHO 7	CHO 8	CHO 9	Total
No of children waiting 0-3 months for an initial contact @month end	357	149	303	150	87	34	149	377	75	1681
No of children waiting 4-6 months for an initial contact @month end	257	213	295	147	112	85	114	401	82	1706
No of children waiting 7-12 months for an initial contact @month end	327	260	308	176	209	231	341	505	191	2,548
No of children waiting over 12 months for an initial contact @month end	374	378	431	467	1217	1049	2029	1064	2484	9493
Total no. of children on the CDNT waiting list @ month end	1315	1000	1337	940	1625	1399	2633	2347	2832	15428

Table 2: National CDNT Interim Metrics end of December 2024

National CDNT Interim Metrics (December 2024)	CHO 1	CHO 2	CHO 3	CHO 4	CHO 5	CHO 6	CHO 7	CHO 8	CHO 9	Total
No of children waiting 0-3 months for an initial contact@month end	109	175	247	157	82	61	151	296	48	1326
No of children waiting 4-6 months for an initial contact@month end	70	102	157	120	83	74	153	178	62	1699
No of children waiting 7-12 months for an initial contact @month end	58	136	298	104	150	138	325	282	128	1619
No of children waiting over 12 months for an initial contact @month end	405	242	605	305	1091	1228	1942	800	2358	6871
Total no. of children on the CDNT waiting list @ month end	642	655	1307	686	1406	1501	2571	1556	2596	11515