

20th June 2025.

Mr. Thomas Gould, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 30868/25

“To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the number of sanctioned posts and filled posts, by discipline and school, for therapists in Cork special schools.”

Dear Deputy Gould,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to respond to your parliamentary question submitted to the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality for response.

Children’s Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) in HSE South West were established in 2021. The teams are managed by five lead agencies: Brothers of Charity Southern Services; CoAction West Cork; Enable Ireland; Horizons and St. Joseph’s Foundation.

There are 14 CDNTs operating in HSE South West – 11 in Cork (CDNT 4 to 14) and three in Kerry (CDNT 1 to 3). The CDNTs were established to provide interdisciplinary supports for children and young people with complex disability needs within defined geographical areas.

CDNTs support children attending Special Schools and Mainstream Schools. 10% of children with complex disability needs attend special schools and 90% of children attend mainstream school or some don’t attend school. The children attending special schools may have complex learning needs but not necessarily complex health needs.

Table 1, in the appendix to this letter, provides the number of approved, filled and vacant WTE (whole time equivalents) in special schools in Cork. Table 2 provides the WTE data by discipline.

HSE South West Disability Service regrets any service delays experienced by families arising from vacant posts and will continue to work with the lead agencies to progress filling of these posts.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely,

**Ms. Angela O'Neill,
Head of Disability Services,
HSE South West.**



Appendix

Table 1: HSE South West: Approved, Filled & Vacant WTEs by Special School

Special School Name	Approved WTEs	Filled WTEs	%	Filled (on Leave) WTEs	%	Vacant WTEs	%
Cara Junior	1.11	0.75	68%	0.36	32%		
Carrigaline	2.99	2.99	100%				
East Cork CSS	1.00	0.40	40%	0.60	60%		
Holy Family	3.00	3.00	100%				
Our Lady of Good Counsel	2.15	1.95	91%			0.20	9%
Rochestown	1.99	1.61	81%	0.05	3%	0.33	17%
School of Divine Child	1.75	0.96	55%	0.04	2%	0.75	43%
Scoil Aislinn	0.64	0.41	64%	0.03	5%	0.20	31%
Scoil Bernadette	0.68	0.68	100%				
Scoil Eanna	0.81	0.81	100%				
Scoil Triest	2.61	0.85	33%	1.46	56%	0.30	11%
Sonass	0.75	0.65	87%			0.10	13%
St Gabriel's	1.95	0.95	49%	0.80	41%	0.20	10%
St Killian's	2.68	2.68	100%				
St Mary's	1.05	0.70	67%	0.05	5%	0.30	29%
St Paul's	6.54	5.94	91%			0.60	9%
	31.70	25.33	80%	3.39	11%	2.98	9%

Table 2: HSE South West: Approved, Filled & Vacant WTEs by Discipline within Special Schools

Discipline	Approved WTEs	Filled WTEs	%	Filled (on Leave) WTEs	%	Vacant WTEs	%
Nursing	0.50	0.50	100%				
O.T.	9.51	8.11	85%	1.40	15%		
Physio	3.42	1.50	44%	0.12	4%	1.80	53%
Psychology	4.21	3.33	79%			0.88	21%
S.L.T.	10.27	8.10	79%	1.87	18%	0.30	3%
Social Work	3.79	3.79	100%				
	31.70	25.33	80%	3.39	11%	2.98	9%

