



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.

27th June 2025

Deputy James Geoghegan,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: james.geoghegan@oireachtas.ie

PQ: 30954/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the total number of individual psychologists, that are directly employed by the HSE, who conduct assessment of need processes; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ: 30955/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality if she will identify by name each section 38 organisation who conduct assessment of need processes for the HSE, if she will identify referable to that section 38 organisation the total individual number of psychologists employed or contracted by that section 38 organisation who conduct assessment of need processes and if she will make a statement on the matter

PQ: 30956/25

To ask the Minister for Children Disability and Equality if she will identify by name each section 39 organisation that carries out an assessment of need process for the HSE; if she will identify referable to that section 39 organisation the total individual number of psychologists employed or contracted by that section 39 organisation who conduct assessment of need processes; and if she will make a statement on the matter

PQ: 30957/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality if she will identify the name of the entity or entities that the HSE contract or contracted to deliver the assessment of need waiting list initiative, in tabular form; if she will identify the total number of individual psychologists provided by the contracted entity or entities to carry out the assessment of need under the waiting list initiative; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -

Dear Deputy Geoghegan,

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

All aspects of the Assessment of Need (AON) process must be performed within the AON legislation.

There are two aspects to Assessment of Need: the administrative process undertaken by the Assessment of Need Officer and the clinical aspect undertaken by Clinicians.

Regardless of whether the clinical aspect is undertaken by HSE, Section 38 or Section 39, it is the Assessment of Need Officer, appointed by the HSE, who coordinates and arranges Assessments of Need as required under Part 2 of the Disability Act (2005).

It is the Assessment Officer's role to ensure that all assessors are:

- Informed of the names of any other assessors who have received requests to assess the child or young person.



- Are aware of their obligations under the iHIQA Standard No. 5 to carry out the assessments in a co-ordinated manner in order to accurately identify the needs of the child /young person and to agree prioritisation of health needs.

The National Access Policy

The National Policy on Access to Services for Children & Young People with Disability & Developmental Delay ensures that children are directed to the appropriate service based on the complexity of their presenting needs i.e. Primary Care for non-complex functional difficulties and Children's Disability Network Teams for complex functional difficulties arising from their disability. Children with disability may access supports from a Children's Disability Network Team or from Primary Care or from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) depending on the complexity of their needs.

Children who require Assessment of Need usually access these assessments through children's disability services (Children's Disability Network Teams – CDNTs). However, some children will access these assessments through Primary Care.

The clinical aspects of the Assessment of Need process may be undertaken by one of more clinicians depending on each individual child's presenting needs.

Childrens Disability Services

93 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.

These multidisciplinary Children's Disability Network Teams include therapists, social workers, nurses, and administrative staff who work collaboratively to provide comprehensive and individualised support to children with disabilities and their families.

A Children's Disability Network Teams workforce survey was conducted on 16th October 2024. The survey captured staffing levels across various disciplines and grades, providing a snapshot of the current workforce across 93 teams.

This report is available at:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/disability/progressing-disability/pds-programme/documents/>

The HSE is the largest employer across the Children's Disability Network Teams (43 of the 93 CDNTs). Seven S38 organisations are the lead agency for 25 CDNTs and four S39 organisations are the lead provider for 25 CDNTs.

Please see the Tables below which provide information regarding the CDNT Psychology grade WTE (as of 09/04/25) who are employed by the HSE, Section 38 and Section 39.

Table 1.

CDNT Workforce	Funded	Filled	Unfilled
Psychologist	332.5	253.3	79.2

Table 2. CDNTs have significantly increased their growth rate in the discipline of Psychology.

HSCP WTE rates	WTE 2023 Oct	WTE 2024 Oct	WTE 2025 April	GROWTH Oct 23 to April 25
Psychologist	213.27	244.7	253.3	19%

Within the CDNTs, Psychologists are employed by each agency as outlined in the next table.



Table 3. Psychologists employed by each Lead Agency on the CDNTs.

Psychology WTE Filled		
Employer	Provider	Filled WTE
HSE	HSE	105
HSE Total WTE Filled		105
CRC	Section 38	10.5
Avista		14.3
BOC		27
Stewarts Care		4.4
St. Michael's Hosue		10.7
Horizon's		7
KARE		5.2
St. John of Gods		2
Cheeverstown		1
Section 38 Total WTE Filled		82.1
Enable Ireland	Section 39	49.4
CoAction		4.7
St. Joseph's Foundation		4
St. Gabriels		6
Western Care		1
St. Catherines		1.1
Section 39 Total WTE Filled		66.2
Overall WTE Filled		253.3

The latest Children's Disability Network Team workforce survey was conducted in April 2025 and finalisation of the workforce data per each x 93 CDNT is currently underway, due to be available in July 2025.

Workforce

With regard to information on numbers of psychology staff working across the health service, information pertaining to staffing levels in health services are generated by the HSE Strategic Workforce Planning & Intelligence Unit.

Information is available per care group area including Disability Services and can be obtained at the following web link:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/our-workforce>

It is important to note that the reports provided by the HSE Strategic Workforce Planning & Intelligence Unit refer to staff numbers in the HSE and in S38 organisations and do not include staff employed in S39 organisations. The HSE does not collect information regarding staff employed by S39 and private organisations.

The end of April 2025 report indicates that there are 1,279 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) Psychologists (1,431 persons) employed across the health services at this time.

Of this, 450 WTE are working in Mental Health Services, 373 WTE are working in Primary care and 272 WTE are working across Disability Services. (S38 and HSE).

Please note that HSE and S38 provider led CDNT psychology WTE is included in the above figure for Disability services.

It is not possible to disaggregate from this information the numbers of psychologists who provide assessments under the Assessment of Need 2005 process either unidisciplinary or as part of a multidisciplinary team depending on the needs of each child.



With regard to the name of private agencies who are providing assessments under the Assessment of Need waiting list initiative, please see Appendix 1.

With regard to the total number of individual psychologists provided by contracted entity or entities to carry out assessment of need under the waiting list initiative, the HSE does not collect this data.

Yours Sincerely,

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



Appendix 1

Name of Private Agency
Access Translations
ACHIEVE THERAPY
Across the Sepctrum
All Kinds of Minds
ATS (Advance Therapy Systems)
CAINT THERAPY
Carlow Psychology Clinic
Chase Psychology Service
Elbow Room
Enable Therapy
Evolve
Galro
Galway Clinic
Galway Speech Therapy
Galway Speech Therapy Clinic
HEADSTART
Insight
Key Assets
Mayo Chase Psychology Service
Mynd psychology
Neurodiverse- EPT clinic
Omnia
RuMu Psychiatry
Servisource
Servisource Achieve