



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.

17<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Deputy Aidan Farrelly,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
E-mail: [aidan.farrelly@oireachtas.ie](mailto:aidan.farrelly@oireachtas.ie)

**PQ: 34264/25**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the number of vacancies, by job title, at each CDNT within CHO9 and CHO7, in tabular form.*

Dear Deputy Farrelly,

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

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.

There are currently 2,009 WTE working in 93 x Children's Disability Network Teams across the country. There has been a net increase of + 415 WTE in the past 18 months and a decrease in vacancy rates from 29% to 18% since October 2023.

Within the former CHO 7 there is a net increase of +45 WTE and in CHO 9 a net increase of +35 WTE across CDNTs, in the past 18 months.

The CDNT vacancy rate in CHO7 has reduced from 33% (2023) to 21% (2025). The vacancy rate in CHO9 has reduced from 25% (2023) to 18% (2025).

I have attached a report which outlines the vacancies per discipline in the former CHO7 and CHO 9. Please see Appendix 1.

Work continues at pace to increase staffing rates across CDNTs. The HSE and CDNT Lead Agencies work actively and collaboratively to improve and optimise recruitment into CDNTs, which in turn has a positive impact on retaining the staff currently working in CDNTs.

Actions to enhance our attraction, recruitment and retention efforts are delivered at a multi-agency level and include:

- Significant recruitment efforts and activities across HSE, Section 38s and Section 39s which has reduced the vacancy rate to 18%.
- Sustained outreach and engagement with applicant pools and future potential workforce through multiple engagements to secondary schools, Higher Education Institutes, international applicants. These engagements represent the wider HSE, Section 38s and Section 39s and showcase CDNTs and Disabilities as career destination.
- The first ever virtual career fair "Disabilities Virtual Career Fair" took place on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025 representing CDNTs and all Disability services across the professions.



- Ongoing webinars with applicant pools dovetailing with job offers with a noted increase in registrations with CareerHub talent pool and increase in job uptake following webinars.
- Direct support to Section 38s and 38s CDNT workforce efforts- funded agencies can now access HSE national recruitment panels and new grad panels which increases their ability to fill roles in an expedited way through accessing the relevant candidate panels. Section 38s and 39s now use [www.hse.ie/jobs](http://www.hse.ie/jobs) and HSE talent pools registered with the HSE's CareerHub portal (48k+ registered applicant pools) which substantially expands their advertising and engagement into targeted applicant pools.
- Launch of under/ post graduate sponsorship programme to job match 2025 relevant graduates into roles in CDNTs
- Increased clinical placements – placements into CDNTs have increased by 30% in the past 2 years.

These activities form part of an ongoing suite of initiatives to populate vacancies, increase retention rates and improve capacity to deliver CDNT services and will continue throughout 2025.

Yours Sincerely,

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

		CDNT Posts Filled/Vacant by Discipline - April 2025 Data Collection											
CHO7	Dietician	Occupational Therapy	Speech & Language Therapy	Psychology	Physiotherapy	Play Therapy	Social Work	Social Care	Nursing	Administration	CDNM	Other/Patient & Client Care	Total
Filled WTE	0.6	52.5	53	35.5	28.2	0	18.5	2.3	5.7	16.5	10	23.2	246
Vacancies WTE	0.7	13.8	14.1	15	3	0	11.1	0	0	1	1	4	63.7
CHO9	Dietician	Occupational Therapy	Speech & Language Therapy	Psychology	Physiotherapy	Play Therapy	Social Work	Social Care	Nursing	Administration	CDNM	Other/Patient & Client Care	Total
Filled WTE	3.3	41.8	44.9	38	25.3	1	29.1	1.7	13.7	25.5	12	14.3	250.6
Vacancies WTE	0.3	14.6	12.1	5.9	9.6	0.7	4	2	0	3	0	2.8	55