



General Manager of Children's
Disability Services
HSE Carlow Kilkenny and
Tipperary South
HSE Waterford Wexford

Disability Services | Health Service
Executive | St Canice's Hospital |
Dublin Road | Kilkenny | R95 P231

dublinsoutheast.hse.ie
@HSEDubSouthEast
T: 087 7976134
E: GMCD.SECH@hse.ie

27th March 2025

Mr. Seamus Healy TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 12962/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if she will provide details of autism assessment waiting times in CHO5.

Dear Deputy Healy,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.

HSE Children's Disability Services has undergone significant reform and restructuring over the past three years with the implementation of the Progressing Disability Services (PDS). The core focus of this change is to ensure that children and their families, with complex interdisciplinary needs, will receive an appropriate and accessible family centred service.

All children on CDNT registers, both CDNT waiting lists and open caseloads are likely to be waiting for some aspect of their intervention. As an interdisciplinary service, vacancies for some disciplines can further restrict the capacity to provide an intervention that requires more than one discipline.

ASD waiting times are not captured on the CDNT metrics. The table below is based on the most recent data available which is captured at a specific point in time and subject to change. This table reflects the number of children on the 12 Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) –waiting list for therapy or assessment or any appointment:

Metric	No. of Children
No. of children waiting 0-3 months on CDNT waiting list at month end	68
No. of children waiting 4-6 months on CDNT waiting list at month end	73
No. of children waiting 7-12 months on CDNT waiting list at month end	148
No. of children waiting over 12 months on CDNT waiting list at month end	1014
No. of children waiting over 12 months on the CDNT waiting list at month end for a specific intervention	373
Total no. of children on CDNT waiting list at month end	1676

As with other areas Disability Services within IHA Waterford/Wexford and IHA Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary are continuing to experience significant recruitment challenges. The HSE is operating in a very competitive market as there are significant shortages of qualified healthcare professionals nationally and internationally. The IHA's continue to prioritise local competitions for all disciplines and continues to express posts out to current national panels where relevant.



The HSE acknowledges that waiting times for CDNT service at this time are stressful for children and their families, and will continue to explore a range of options to enhance the recruitment and retention of essential staff into our CDNTs.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Maeve Cleary
General Manager – Children’s Disability Services
IHA Carlow Kilkenny/Tipperary South
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