



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

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18<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Mr. Mattie McGrath TD  
Dail Eireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 9100/25**

**To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of children waiting to be seen by the CDNT teams 4 and 5 in south Tipperary under all disciplines including the length of time waiting, the waiting times and the numbers of children waiting to be assessed for autism; and if she will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy McGrath,

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 in relation to disability services.*

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.

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 Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) – Network 4 and Network 5 waiting list for therapy or assessment or any appointment:

Metric	No. of Children CDNT - 4	No. Children CDNT- 5
No. of children waiting 0-3 months on CDNT waiting list at month end	3	8
No. of children waiting 4-6 months on CDNT waiting list at month end	11	17
No. of children waiting 7-12 months on CDNT waiting list at month end	5	14
No. of children waiting over 12 months on CDNT waiting list at month end	1	86
No. of children waiting over 12 months on the CDNT waiting list at month end for a specific intervention	0	39
<b>Total no. of children on CDNT waiting list at month end</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>164</b>

As with other areas Disability Services within South East Community Healthcare (SECH) 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. SECH continues 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.

Our colleagues in Primary Care Services have provided the following update.

There are 233 children and young people currently awaiting an Autism Assessment within the Primary Care Autism Assessment Team (PCAAT) Networks 4 and 5. Increased demand for assessments and changes in staffing resources available are impacting waiting times. The wait time for assessment for a new referral is currently 48 months.

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

Yours sincerely,

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**Maeve Cleary**  
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