



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.

9th October 2025

Deputy Martin Daly,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: martin.daly@oireachtas.ie

PQ: 53643/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the number of people on the speech and language therapy assessment waiting list and within that the numbers waiting less than 4 months for each local health area as of 1st October 2025 or latest date available; the number waiting 4-12 months, more than 12 months; and if she would indicate also for each category the numbers waiting aged 0-17 years and those aged 18 and above, in tabular form.

PQ: 53644/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the number of people on the speech and language therapy initial treatment waiting list and within that the numbers waiting less than 4 months; the number waiting 4-12 months; and the number waiting more than 12 months; and if he would indicate also for each category the numbers waiting aged 0-17 years and those aged 18 and above for each local health area as of 1st October 2025 or latest date available, in tabular form.

PQ: 53645/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the number of people on the speech and language therapy further treatment waiting list and within that the numbers waiting less than 4 months, waiting 4-12 months, more than 12 months; and if he would indicate also for each category the numbers waiting aged 0-17 years and those aged 18 and above.

Dear Deputy Daly,

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

People requiring therapy services would primarily access these services through Primary Care Teams in the Regional Healthcare Areas for non-complex functional difficulties and Disability Services for complex functional difficulties.

Due to the multidisciplinary nature of Disability Services, discipline specific data is not collated.

Primary Care Services collate discipline specific data and it has been clarified that our colleagues in Primary Care have also received the questions and are reverting to you with the requested information.

With regard to Childrens' Disability Services, 93 Childrens Disability Network Teams, aligned to 96 Community Healthcare Networks (CHNs) across the country, are in place and are providing services and supports for children aged from birth to 18 years of age.



Each CDNT covers a specific geographical area and holds a waiting list for children with complex needs residing in that area.

The model of service for all CDNTs is family-centred and based on the needs of the child. This includes universal, targeted and specialised supports and interventions, as appropriate to the individual child and family. It is based on the objectives of empowering and supporting parents and others who are with the child on a daily basis to facilitate the child's developmental needs.

The CDNTs are currently providing services and supports for almost 45,000 children and strategies and supports for urgent cases on the waitlist where staffing resources allow.

The HSE's Roadmap for Service Improvement 2023 – 2026, Disability Services for Children and Young People, targeted Service Improvement Programme to achieve a quality, accessible, equitable and timely service for all children with complex needs as a result of a disability and their families, is well advanced in its delivery

The Roadmap has four Working Groups and by year end, 45 of its 60 goals will have been achieved. The remaining goals and new initiatives will continue being implemented into and throughout 2026 to drive ongoing service development.

While there are almost 45,000 on the CDNT caseload currently, there are 10,579 on the CDNT waiting list.

However, 1,052 children (&/or their parents), who are on the CDNT waiting list, participated in one or more individual and/or group intervention appointments during August 2025.

In addition, between Jan 1st 2025 and Aug 31st 2025:

- Although 6,998 new children were referred to CDNTs, CDNT waiting list has been reduced by 18% from 12,920 to 10,579 children
- Open CDNT caseload has increased by 5% from 42,836 to 44,994
- 4,950 children have received their Initial Contact intervention.

The CDNTs continue to optimise their clinical resources available, providing online and in person group and one on one interventions based on individual children and families' needs and for waitlisted children, drop in or planned advice clinics. Where resources allow, one on one interventions are provided where critical.

Waiting List for the Childrens Disability Services

Historically the number of children waitlisted for children's disability services provided by section 38 and section 39 providers has not been available nationally. The establishment of CDNTs in 2021 has facilitated the collection of this data. A National Information Management System for all 93 CDNTs is being rolled out and when implemented, will provide current data on waiting lists and other details for all CDNTs.

Pending full roll-out to all 93 CDNTs, manual data collection is currently in place nationally as an interim measure.

The table on the next page is the validated data for the end of August 2025 activity reports. This shows the number of children that are waiting for an initial contact with a CDNT in the 6 Regional Healthcare Areas (RHAs). This is the most recent data available. September and October 2025 data is not yet available.

In line with best practice guidelines, CDNTs use a multidisciplinary approach to assessment and intervention. In this context, the CDNTs do not collect activity data by individual discipline (such as SLT, Physiotherapy, OT etc) as this does not align with the interdisciplinary model of care. So while we have data for children that are waiting for an initial contact with a CDNT, discipline-specific data is not available.



Table 1: End of August 2025

National CDNT Interim Metrics (August 2025)	HSE West and North West	HSE Midwest	HSE South West	HSE Dublin and South East	HSE Dublin Midlands	HSE Dublin and North East	Total
No. of children waiting 0-3 months for an initial CDNT contact @ month end	209	159	163	141	277	257	1206
No. of children waiting 4-6 months for an initial CDNT contact @ month end	89	162	125	168	243	248	1035
No. of children waiting 7-12 months for an initial CDNT contact @ month end	72	232	147	258	393	291	1393
No. of children waiting over 12 months for an initial CDNT contact @ month end	162	670	191	1958	2101	1863	6945
Total no. of children on the CDNT waiting list @ month end.	532	1223	626	2525	3014	2659	10,579

Yours Sincerely,

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