



16th September 2025

Ms Emer Currie, TD
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Email: emer.currie@oireachtas.ie

PQ 45137/25 *“To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality if Health Service Executive disability services in the Dublin north city & west (IHA DNCW) area can receive an additional allocation of multi-disciplinary staff for CDNTs in 2025, in view of the increase of 12 students at a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter..” – Emer Currie, TD*
Details Supplied: Danu Community Special School

Dear Deputy Currie,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you with information in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted for response. I examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Danu Community Special School (CSS), located in Blanchardstown, is supported by the Avista Blanchardstown Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT).

In recognition of the support needs of children attending the school, HSE Disability Services, Integrated Health Area Dublin North City & West (IHA DNCW), allocated a small dedicated resource to Avista Blanchardstown CDNT in 2022. This enabled the recruitment of 1.8 WTE (Whole Time Equivalent) which was split as follows:

- 0.4 WTE Senior Speech and Language Therapy
- 0.4 WTE Senior Occupational Therapy
- 1.0 WTE Behavioral Therapy hours to strengthen the supports available.

Children attending Danu CSS may also receive input from other therapeutic disciplines associated with the school, depending on their assessed needs and the prioritisation of resources. In the absence of additional resources, these supports must be requested by the child and family from the child's CDNT based on their home address.

IHA DNCW note the Department of Education's planned expansion of Danu CSS in 2025, which may result in an increase of up to fifty percent (50%) in pupil numbers.

In response to the projected increase in demand and the wider population pressures within the area, Avista submitted a business case to the HSE seeking additional staffing resources for the Blanchardstown CDNT. Funding is not available at this time.

The HSE Disability Services agreed, if funding becomes available, priority is assigned for 1.5 WTE Health and Social Care professional posts, to work with Avista Blanchardstown CDNT. If funded and possible to recruit, the posts may provide some additional resource in Danu school where feasible, based on priority need of all children accessing Blanchardstown CDNT services.

I trust this information clarifies your query.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Olive Hanley
Head of Service for Disability
Integrated Health Areas of Dublin North County and Dublin North City & West