



16th September 2025

Mr. Mattie McGrath TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 46199/25

To ask the Minister for Health the current number of children waiting for speech and language, occupational therapy, physiotherapy and psychology services in South Tipperary; the average waiting time for each service; the number of children waiting for an assessment of needs; 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.

HSE Children's Disability Services has undergone significant reform and restructuring over the past number of 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.

The table below reflects the number of children on CDNT - Network 4 Cashel and CDNT Network 5 Clonmel waiting lists for therapy or assessment or any appointment:

Metric	No. of Children CDNT Cashel	No. of Children CDNT Clonmel
No. of children waiting 0-3 months on CDNT waiting list @ month end	2	5
No. of children waiting 4-6 months on CDNT waiting list @ month end	6	29
No. of children waiting 7-12 months on CDNT waiting list @ month end	0	21
No. of children waiting over 12 months on CDNT waiting list @ month end	0	78
Total no. of children on the CDNT waiting list @ months end	8	133



In relation to the number of children awaiting Assessment of Need, since 1st January 2023 there have been 113 applications received in the South Tipperary area. There are 83 Assessment Reports overdue for completion in South Tipperary and 5 applicants overdue to start Stage 2.

As with other areas, Disability Services within 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 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.

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
IHA Waterford Wexford