



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

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23rd September 2025

Mr. George Lawlor TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 48457/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the number of persons under 18 years-of-age who are on an autism assessment waiting list in County Wexford; the length of time on the waiting list in each of the years from 2023 to date in 2025, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Lawlor,

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 Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) 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 reflects the number of children on CDNT New Ross, CDNT Gorey, CDNT Wexford and CDNT Enniscorthy waiting list for therapy or assessment or any appointment. This is based on the most recent data available which is captured at a specific point in time and subject to change.

Metric	New Ross	Gorey	Wexford	Enniscorthy
No. of children waiting 0-3 months on the CDNT waiting list @ month end.	5	11	7	4
No. of children waiting 4-6 months on the CDNT waiting list @ month end.	2	10	5	3
No. of children waiting 7-12 months on the CDNT waiting list @ month end.	9	12	15	5
No. of children waiting over 12 months on the CDNT waiting list @ month end	62	126	70	104
Total no. of children on the CDNT waiting list @ month end.	78	159	97	116



As with other areas, Disability Services within IHA Waterford/Wexford 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.

Our colleagues in Primary Care have provided the following update:

<i>Number of Clients on waiting list from Wexford 2023</i>		<i>Number of Clients on waiting list from Wexford 2024</i>		<i>Number of Clients on waiting list from Wexford 2025</i>	
Waiting 5 years referred in 2018	3	Waiting 6 years referred in 2018	43	Waiting 7 years referred in 2018	33
Waiting 4 years referred in 2019	1	Waiting 5 years referred in 2019	29	Waiting 6 years referred in 2019	25
Waiting 3 years referred in 2020	1	Waiting 4 years referred in 2020	31	Waiting 5 years referred in 2020	29
Waiting 2 years referred in 2021	2	Waiting 3 years referred in 2021	41	Waiting 4 years referred in 2021	37
Waiting 1 years referred in 2022	46	Waiting 2 years referred in 2022	24	Waiting 3 years referred in 2022	23
Waiting less than 1 years referred in 2023	79	Waiting 1 years referred in 2023	89	Waiting 2 years referred in 2023	84
		Waiting less than 1 year referred in 2024	125	Waiting 1 year referred in 2024	139
				Waiting less than 1 year referred in 2025	77
Total	132	Total	382	Total	447

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
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IHA Carlow Kilkenny/Tipperary South
IHA Waterford Wexford