



Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

Office of the Head of Operations,
Disability Services/Social Care Division,
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18th December 2023

Deputy Pauline Tully,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: pauline.tully@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Tully,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary questions, which were submitted to this department for response.

PQ: 54540/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the estimated capital cost of transferring 50, 100 and 200 people with disabilities, under the age of 65 years, out of a nursing home and into an assisted community home; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ: 54541/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the first and full year current cost of transferring 50, 100 and 200 people with disabilities, under the age of 65 years, out of a nursing home and into an assisted community home, respectively; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

There is a commitment to reduce and provide a pathway to eliminate the practice of inappropriately accommodating young people with serious disabilities in nursing homes and to facilitate where appropriate, people under 65s who wish to live elsewhere. The National Service Plan has allocated €5.5m for 2022/2023 and provided €8m to support existing levels of service. This is a total of €13.5m for 2023 to support this work.

The HSE is co-ordinating a programme of work to review and implement the report's recommendations for which the HSE has accountability. Through this work the HSE aims 1) to prevent and reduce the practice of inappropriately placing younger people with disabilities in nursing home settings and 2) to actively support individuals who wish to move into the community or who wish to be provided with additional levels of support to improve their daily lives while resident in a nursing home.



It is acknowledged that for some individuals, based on a set of clearly defined assessed needs, nursing home interventions may be appropriate, where the required clinical supports are available and best met.

Based on the HSE's Under 65 Operational tracker, the majority of individuals under the age of 65 (U65) currently placed in Nursing Homes, require a high level of need, with a high percentage of these adults with an acquired neurological condition.

The cost required per person reflects the complexity of these support needs. Additionally, Disability teams are working with individuals to identify a range of accommodation options best suited to their needs, these can vary from move into own home to more specialised housing, which are significantly at a higher cost.

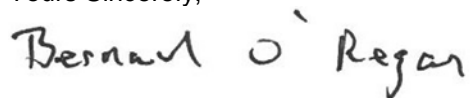
In 2023 a new U65 Financial tracker was introduced to enable greater understanding of the different U65 costing models and bands and to enable more accurate placement costings. When looking at costs per person for U65s, our estimates are based on:

- 1) An average, taking into account all support and placement ranges, which vary from high cost specialised placements to lower cost return to own/family home transitions.
- 2) Placement costs which include both operating and capital costs.

Based on the U65 Financial tracker and an analysis of transfers of U65 residential moves to date, our estimate for full year 2023 placement is €202k per person.

Taking this average, the cost to support 50,100 and 200 people with disabilities, under the age of 65 years to move out of a nursing home and into an assisted community home would be €10,100,000, € 20,200, 000 and €40,400,000 respectively.

Yours Sincerely,



Bernard O'Regan,
Head of Operations - Disability Services,
Community Operations

