



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,
31-33 Catherine Street, Limerick.

T: 00353 (0) 61 483369
Suíomh Gréasáin/Website: <http://www.hse.ie>

6th 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 question, which was submitted to this department for response.

PQ: 51929/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the estimated number of residential places for disabled people that will be needed over the next 5, 10, 15 and 20 years, in tabular form.

HSE Response

Residential services make up the largest part of the Disability funding disbursed by the HSE – over 60% of the total budget – and approximately 90 service providers provide residential services to over 8,000 individuals throughout the country. The bulk of these are provided by the 50 highest funded agencies (comprising both Section 38 & Section 39 organisations) – approximately 77% of residential places. The HSE itself provides approximately 13% of the places and approximately 10% of places are provided by Private-for-Profit agencies.

The HSE developed a Residential Capacity Database to capture the number of residential placements / contract capacity per the service arrangement between the nine CHO areas and the service provider agencies. The end of September 2023 position indicates that there were 8,355 residential places for people with a disability – 155 places are occupied by children, which constitutes about 2% of the total.

A number of new emergency residential places have been added to the residential base, which results in a capacity increase. However, it should also be noted that Residential Capacity will also reduce during the year as a result of the loss of places in congregated settings due to deaths, which cannot be re-utilised. This is in keeping with Government policy, which is to move away from institutionalised settings (i.e. Time to Move On from Congregate Settings) where the State is actively implementing a policy that will have a bed reduction impact. In addition, “in-year” capacity (bed) levels will also be impacted negatively as a result of regulatory requirements; that is, where an inspection outcome leads to capacity being reduced.

In previous years, funding has been allocated in the National Service Plan to provide for additional new emergency residential placements, as follows:

- The HSE responded to 474 “emergency places/cases” between 2014 and 2016.



- NSP 2017 made provision for 185 new emergency residential placements
- Between 2018 and 2020, the HSE developed a total of 252 new emergency places across the 9 CHOs.
- In accordance with the NSP 2021, 91 new emergency residential places were developed; a further 25 planned residential places also opened in 2021; 4 adult transfers to Tusla also took place. A further 19 people aged under 65 living in nursing homes were supported to move to homes of their choosing in the community, during the year.
- In accordance with the NSP 2022, the HSE developed 103 new emergency residential places together with 11 Planned Residential places and 18 new intensive support packages and 19 new supported living packages. The CHO Areas indicated that 22 people transitioned from Nursing Homes to homes of their choosing in the community and 32 packages to support adults ageing out of Tusla services were put in place.
- In accordance with the NSP 2023, the HSE has been allocated funding to provide 43 additional residential places in response to current need (At end of September 2023, 103 new emergency residential places were developed). In addition, in line with the Winter Plan, 27 people received new residential places with 3 further receiving home care packages. A further 25 residential care packages were developed for young people ageing out of Tusla services in line with the Joint Protocol.

The table below shows the number of residential places available at end of December 2020, 2021, 2022 and end of September 2023.

	Residential Places Available December 2020	Residential Places Available December 2021	Residential Places Available December 2022	Residential Places Available April 2023
Total	8,139	8,146	8,283	8,355

The HSE acknowledges that demographic challenges associated with the increase in the number of people living with a disability, the increase in age and life expectancy and the changing needs of people with a disability have all led to the need for increased residential facilities. In this regard, the HSE continues to work with agencies to explore various ways of responding to this need in line with the budget available.

Disability Support Application Management Tool (DSMAT)

The HSE Disability Services has introduced a system called the Disability Support Application Management Tool (DSMAT), which enables Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) areas to record and manage requests for support and to ensure that the application process is equitable and transparent. The DSMAT provides a consistent listing process for each CHO Area by presenting a detailed profile of the individuals (Adults & Children) who require funded supports outside of the current service quantum.

It captures detailed information on home and family circumstances and a detailed presentation profile of the individuals, including specialised profiles of behavioural intensity, key diagnoses, and complex support needs due to the extent and intensity of intellectual and/or physical & sensory disability.

It is important to note that in the absence of a statutory, legislative framework providing entitlement to services, the DSMAT is not a chronological waiting list. Rather, it is a support to the CHO area to feed into its decision making process around prioritisation of services subject to budgetary constraints. This means that services are allocated on the basis of greatest presenting need and associated risk factors.

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Applications for services entered into the DSMAT tool by CHO areas are primarily categorised as Residential or Non-Residential. In this regard, the breakdown of requests for Residential Placements for the past number of years is as follows:

The demand for full-time residential placements within designated centres is extremely high, and is reflective of the absence of multi-year development funding that has not been in place since 2007/2008.



As of Mid Year 2023, there are 1,296 Residential Placements applications.

Each CHO continues to actively manage applications for support from service users with high levels of acuity/ safeguarding risks, through lower-cost non-residential interventions such as in-home and Residential Respite, active case-management and inter-agency cooperation.

Estimates Process

Prior to the publication of the Annual Service Plan and the allocation of funding commensurate with that plan, based on government direction and the economic environment, the HSE establishes a process and accountability route to identify financial and human resource requirements for the following year for the totality of the organisation. This typically includes: Existing Levels of Service, Service Priorities, Government Policy, Strategic Direction of HSE and service efficiencies / initiatives.

Each year the HSE participates in the Estimates Process with the Department of Health and makes a submission for additional monies to meet the health and social care needs of the population it services.

The Disability Service makes submissions for additional funding for all services including Residential Services as a key element of its submission. Any new funding secured is allocated to the CHOs to provide services to those with the greatest need (priority basis).

The HSE makes every effort to secure multi-annual investment for all services, including residential services via the Estimates process and is very conscious of the need to deliver disability policy on a more sustainable footing given the significant levels of need for increased and more effective services and supports to enable people with a disability to live independent lives in their own community.

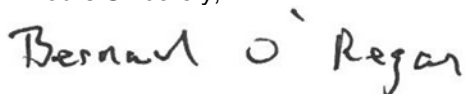
Future Planning

The demand for full-time residential placements within designated centres is extremely high and is reflective of the absence of multi-year development funding that has not been in place since 2007/2008.

The Department of Health's 2021 Disability Capacity Review has projected a need for a minimum of an additional 1,900 residential places by 2032 under a minimum projection and an extra 3,900 in order to return to levels of provision prior to the beginning of the 2008 recession. Please see the table below.

	Annual Report of the National Ability Supports System (NASS), HRB ¹	Disability Capacity Review to 2032, Department of Health	Disability Supports Application Management Tool, <u>Nov 2022 extract.</u> , HSE ²
Residential	1,000 present requirement "unmet need for places"	1,900 minimum to 2032 3,900 to restore to 2007 coverage	1,232 (582 immediate requirement/660 future needs or unclassified)

Yours Sincerely,



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

