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Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,  
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18<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Deputy Pauline Tully,  
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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: 56767/23**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the total number of children with disabilities in each CHO who were offered and accepted a residence in 2023 outside the county in which their family resides.*

**PQ: 56768/23**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of children with disabilities in each CHO who were offered and accepted a residence from for-profit service providers in 2023 outside the county in which their family resides.*

**PQ: 56769/23**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the total number of adults with disabilities in each CHO who were offered and accepted a residence in 2023 outside the county in which their family resides.*

**PQ: 56870/23**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of adults with disabilities in each CHO who were offered and accepted a residence from for-profit service providers in 2023 outside the county in which their family resides.*

**PQ: 56871/23**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the amount of current funding for the provision for residences for children with disabilities that was provided by for-profit service providers in 2022 and 2023, in tabular form.*

**PQ: 56874/23**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth his views on whether children and adults with disabilities need to live close to family and natural supports where that is their will and preference; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

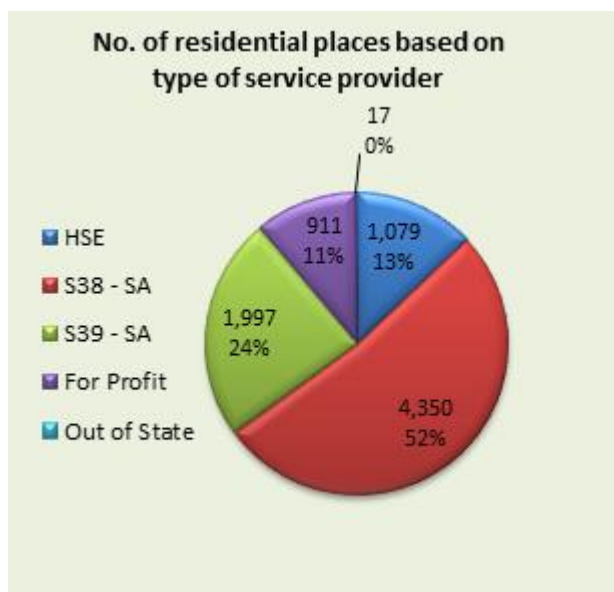


## HSE Response

The HSE is committed to the delivery of appropriate services for children and adults with disabilities and is working with all stakeholders to develop services that meet their needs.

Residential services make up the largest part of the Disability funding disbursed by the HSE – about 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.

Please see the Pie Chart below depicting this information.



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.

The table below shows the number of residential places available at the end of September 2023 broken down by CHO Area.

| CHO          | Residential Places Available September 2023 |
|--------------|---|
| CHO 1        | 694   |
| CHO 2        | 874   |
| CHO 3        | 798   |
| CHO 4        | 1,130                                       |
| CHO 5        | 914   |
| CHO 6        | 552   |
| CHO 7        | 1,188                                       |
| CHO 8        | 945   |
| CHO 9        | 1,260                                       |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>8,355</b>                                |



Information regarding residents (children and adults) living in residential centres outside the county in which their family resides is not collated nationally.

With regard to the amount of funding for the provision for residential services for children with disabilities that was provided by for-profit service providers in 2022 and 2023, the estimated level of spend on residential disability services in 2022 was €1.4 billion. Please note that this figure includes residential services for both children and adults in all residential services (including S38, S39, For Profit and Out of State organisation), as it is not possible to disaggregate the information.

In 2022, For Profit Organisations, where Disability Services is the main funder, received approximately €2.12 million. However, please note that this figure reflects all types of service provision provided to both children and adults by For Profit Organisations, including but not limited to, residential, respite and assisted living services etc.

Information regarding 2023 spend is not available as yet.

### **Provision of Residential Places**

Through a robust Governance Framework, the HSE works in partnership with organisations including Section 38, Section 39, Out of State and For Profit organisations to ensure the best level of service possible is provided to people with a disability, and their families, within the available resources.

The framework includes annual completion of service arrangements for the provision of services and involves collaboration and dialogue between the HSE and the Service Provider, agreement on anticipated outcomes that the service will deliver to meet services users' needs, agreed performance management requirements and a reporting timetable regarding reports and meetings. This level of performance monitoring will depend on the type of service, the level of functions and level of funding provided to the organisation.

In addition, HIQA's National Standards for Residential Services for Children and Adults with Disabilities 2013, describe what residential services need to do to make sure that the children and adults in their care receive a high-quality, safe service that meets their needs.

Residential centres must provide services to adults and children in line with their assessed needs. In advance of admission to any service, the Service Provider must ensure it can meet the needs and requirements of the service user. Referrals to and acceptance of referrals are contingent on the ability of the service to meet the clients assessed need.

While every effort will be made by the referring agency to ensure the provision of residential services for the service user is close to family/natural supports and that will and preference is taken into account, there are various important caveats to be considered, not least, as outlined above, the availability of a suitable residential place that can meet the unique and assessed needs and requirements of each individual.

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.

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.

### **Action Plan for Disability Services 2023-2026**

The Action Plan for Disability Services 2024-2026, sets out a three year programme designed to tackle the deficits highlighted in the *Disability Capacity Review to 2032*, which identified the demand for specialist community-based disability services arising from demographic change, and considerable levels of unmet need.

Specifically, the Disability Capacity Review 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. Moreover, the central projection of the Capacity Review suggests that adults with intellectual disabilities requiring specialist services will increase by a sixth between 2018 and 2032, with fastest growth for young adults (up a third by 2032) and over 55s (up a quarter). These projections include an average of approximately 90 new residential places that will be needed each year from 2020 to 2032 to accommodate changes in the size and age structure of the disability population.

The Action Plan is designed to provide additional funding for developments that will help build capacity within services, so that the benefits of these funding increases will be felt directly by the service user. This will also help the HSE in dealing with some of the key cost-drivers in service delivery, such as high-cost emergency residential placements, giving greater flexibility and control when planning services.

The headline service improvements which are planned over the 2024-26 period are:

#### Residential

- Around 900 additional residential care places to tackle unmet needs and ensure supply keeps pace with demographic change;



- 500 new community-based residential care places to replace disability care in large institutional and campus-based settings, with a view to ending that form of provision by 2030;
- Continued expansion of respite services, including alternative residential options

Yours sincerely,

*Bernard O'Regan*

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

