

2nd September, 2024

Mr. Thomas Gould, T.D.,
 Dáil Éireann,
 Dublin 2

PQ ref 30161/24

“To ask the Minister for Health the total number of respite hours provided to families in Cork over each of the past 12 months; the total number that has been provided in each month since March 2021, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Gould,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Respite services, both in the home and in nursing homes, are recognized as hugely important for carers as they offer an opportunity to take a break from the stresses of caring. In terms of respite usage in 2021 and in 2022, whilst the country was in a COVID pandemic, facilities were not open for respite. Towards the end of 2022 some facilities began gradually accepting clients for respite in a very limited and on a phased basis. Also, families were not seeking respite and declining respite owing to the risk of contracting COVID. This would have applied across all areas in Cork.

The table below shows the total number who availed of respite in 2023 and the number of weeks respite delivered in that year. The projections for 2024 are also outlined.

	Number availing of respite in 2023	Number of weeks respite in 2023
West Cork	250	610
South Lee	556	1312

North Cork	Number of Respite Hours Provided
Jan-23	14,616
Feb-23	10,584
Mar-23	14,448
Apr-23	12,096
May-23	12,264
Jun-23	14,112
Jul-23	12,768
Aug-23	14,280
Sep-23	14,112
Oct-23	15,968

Nov-23	18,312
Dec-23	10,750
Jan-24	15,120
Feb-24	14,952
Mar-24	11,424
Apr-24	15,120
May-24	18,480
Jun-24	15,792

North Lee	No of Beds	No of weeks available	No of weeks used
Cois Abhann	3	156	124
Glyntown	2	104	84
Bridhaven	4	208	120
St. Lukes	2	104	80
Nazareth House	2	Commenced 10/10/2023	13
Marymount	8	352	124

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Priscilla Lynch
Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare