

21st November 2024.

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

PQ ref 45741/24

“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 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 to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth for response.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare (CKCH) is acutely aware of the demand for respite services for people with disabilities and, on receipt of very welcome funding, has significantly invested in respite services in recent years. CKCH Disability Services continues to invest in respite services, proactively seek alternative respite models and utilise all available funding to provide respite services for all children and adults who require them. We are working with service providers to create new residential and alternative respite supports for children and adults in 2024 and welcome any additional funding to continue to invest in these vital services.

Adults:

Residential respite services for adults in Cork are delivered by Abode, Brothers of Charity, CoAction, Cope Foundation, Enable Ireland, RehabCare and St Joseph's Foundation. 88 residential respite beds comprising 28 full time places and 60 part time places are provided.

CKCH Disability Services have worked to improve access to residential (overnight) respite services for adults with disabilities in Cork in recent years. This has resulted in

the establishment of a regional respite house for those residing in Cork which provides 5 beds on a full-time basis.

Children:

Residential respite services for children under 18 years of age are delivered by a range of organisations namely; Brothers of Charity, CoAction, Cope Foundation, Enable Ireland and St. Joseph's Foundation. There are a total of 29 beds.

In 2023, CKCH provided funding to Enable Ireland to increase respite for children in the Lavanagh Centre, Curraheen, Cork. This resulted in an increase in bed nights from 138 bed nights in early 2023 to an expected 552 bed nights per annum from 2024 onwards.

In addition to residential respite, CKCH provides a range of alternative respite models for children and adults. These include afterschool clubs and in home support for children and outreach supports and holiday breaks for adults. This ensures that respite is provided in the manner which best meets the needs of the child/adult and their families.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare (CKCH) National Key Performance Indicators for Respite Services:

The HSE gathers activity data on a quarterly basis for respite services in Cork and Kerry. This information is submitted by the service providers listed above.

Regrettably, an error has been identified in previous data provided to you in response to PQ 30161/ 24. In the tables below, data for 2023 Day Only Respite Sessions has been amended and Quarter 1 2024 Overnight Respite has also been amended. The tables hereunder reflect the correct position.

2024 data reported below includes Quarter 1 to Quarter 3 figures. Quarter 4 data (October to December) will be available from mid-February 2025.

Table 1: KPI Data January 2021 to March 2024 - Number of Overnights of Respite for persons with Intellectual Disability (ID)/ Autism or Physical & Sensory Disability (P&SD) in Cork.

Overnight Respite	Jan - Mar	Apr - June	May - Sept	Oct - Dec	Total
2021	1,454	1,973	2,552	2,211	8,190
2022	2,221	2,804	2,706	2,854	10,585
2023	3,295	3,624	3,925	2,651	13,495
2024	3,709	3,495	3,732		10,936

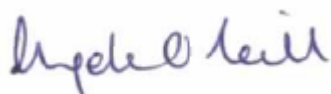


Table 2: KPI Data January 2021 to March 2024 - Number of Day Only Sessions for persons with Intellectual Disability (ID)/ Autism or Physical & Sensory Disability (P&SD) in Cork.

Day Respite	Jan - Mar	Apr - June	May - Sept	Oct - Dec	Total
2021	232	194	228	436	1090
2022	247	333	246	227	1053
2023	208	430	385	295	1318
2024	312	362	935		1609

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely,



**Ms. Angela O'Neill,
Head of Disability Services,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**

