



26<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Deputy Pauline Tully  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

*Re: PQ 38526/24 - To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the reason a respite house (details supplied) which has a user group of 83 people has been unable to cater for the vast majority of the user group for approximately four years; the actions he is taking to address this; and the assurances he and the HSE can give that the entire user group will be able to avail of this facility in future.*

Dear Deputy Tully,

Thank you for your recent correspondence. The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you in the context of the above Representation. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the current position.

The HSE can confirm that in 2022 St John of Gods (SJOG) Wyattville respite house was required to support an individual requiring an emergency residential designated centre placement following a High Court order. The individual remained in the respite house until December 2023 when a new residential service was commissioned and operational.

The HSE provided supported holidays with Disability & Home Supports Wexford for the individuals (64) impacted by the loss of a respite service in the Wyattville service with the majority availing of this service on numerous occasions throughout 2022 & 2023. The HSE continue to fund this service in 2024 until such time as the respite house has sufficient staffing recruited to re-open to full capacity.

Below is the utilised capacity in 2024.

Year	No. of Service Users availing of Supported Holidays	No. of nights respite provided	Cost
2024	145	640	€1,162,173.84

In November 2024, SJOG's advised the re-opening of Wyattville on a phased basis. Unfortunately, recruitment remains a barrier for SJOG's opening to full capacity hence there is three- phased approach to the operation of Wyattville.

**Phase one - Evenings and weekend afternoon's activity only**

Opened on the 12th of November 2024 for allocations on an activity only basis, and a number of individuals who have not been receiving respite for some time have availed of these allocations very successfully. SJOG estimate that phase one will run until the end of January 2025.



**Phase two- Overnights for low support needs at night**

With the successful recruitment of additional 1 WTE staff, SJOG's aim to move to phase two and open for a limited number of overnights per week. With the addition of 2 WTE staff, SJOG's will be in a position to open seven nights a week for this group of individuals. Phase two will provide support for individuals with lower night-time needs. The purpose of this approach is to maximise the capacity across the full year for all individuals.

**Phase Three- Overnights for All**

Phase three will commence when we have a full team recruited and aims to provide overnight respite to all, inclusive of those individuals with higher night-time support needs.

**Interim Measures while we re-build capacity**

HSE Disability Services will continue to fund supported holidays with Disability & Home Supports Wexford from January 2025 to April 2025, in recognition that it will take SJOG's time to reach full capacity in 13 Wyattville.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Claire Waldron'.

---

*Claire Waldron,  
General Manager,  
Disability Services*