



Oifig an Stiúrthóir Cúnta Náisiúnta,
Foireann Míchumais Náisiúnta,
An Chéad Urlár - Oifigí 13, 14, 15,
Àras Phlásóg na Rós, Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,
Páirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta,
Caladh an Treoigh,
Luimneach.

Office of the Assistant National Director,
National Disability Team,
First Floor- Offices 13, 14, 15,
Roselawn House, University Business Complex,
National Technology Park,
Castletroy,
Limerick.

22nd October 2024

Deputy Pádraig O'Sullivan,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: padraig.osullivan@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy O'Sullivan,

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: 40458/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the estimated cost of completing the programme of decongregation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -

PQ: 40464/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the level of investment in decongregation since 2011 to date, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

The HSE Time To Move On policy is supporting people to progress from campus based/ institutional settings to community based homes with support. The on-going commitment of the HSE to the vision of "Time to Move on" has been fundamental in bringing about meaningful and sustainable change for approximately 2,400 individuals since the programme began and is enabling these individuals to live ordinary lives in ordinary places in the community.

This proposed model of support envisages that people living in congregated settings will be moved to dispersed housing in ordinary communities and will have the same entitlement as any other citizen, such as GP services, home help, public health nursing services and access to primary care teams. This process has shown that families initially had concerns about their family member moving to the community however, meaningful engagement with families and individuals before during and after the transition led to successful transitions for all those who have moved to date.



Initial feedback shows that the lives of many individuals have been enhanced and they are enjoying a far greater quality of life than when living in a congregated setting.

The HSE is committed to ensuring that planned transitions meet the individual's specific needs and take full consideration of the individuals expressed will and preference. The HSE will ensure meaningful engagement takes place with family members and other key people who have a relationship with the individual in line with the Assisted Decision Making Capacity Act.

Investment and Expenditure

Please see the table below which gives the expenditure on Decongregation from 2016 to 2021. It is important to note that this is capital expenditure. Information on expenditure in 2024 will not be reported on until 2025.

Disability Decongregation Expenditure (NDP) 2016 - 2021							
CHO	Expenditure 2016 (€m)	Expenditure 2017 (€m)	Expenditure 2018 (€m)	Expenditure 2019 (€m)	Expenditure 2020 (€m)	Expenditure 2021 (€m)	Total Expenditure 2016-2021 (€m)
CHO1	0.73	2.56	1.85	2.09	2.57	2.68	12.48
CHO 2	0.42	3.23	1.67	1.65	1.07	1.36	9.39
CHO 3	0.28	0.21	1.17	1.47	2.54	0.57	6.24
CHO 4	2.48	3.70	2.00	0.32	0.78	0.41	9.70
CHO 5	1.20	0.75	0.85	0.95	0.58	0.41	4.74
CHO 6	1.50	0.99	0.41	0.17	0.05	0.00	3.13
CHO 7	1.31	1.18	0.68	0.34	0.06	0.00	3.57
CHO 8	1.14	3.14	1.42	1.83	1.93	0.93	10.39
CHO 9	0.86	0.00	0.13	0.06	0.02	0.00	1.08
National	9.93	15.76	10.19	8.89	9.60	6.36	60.72

Since 2021, the expenditure on Decongregation has been €4.52m in 2022 and €5.93m in 2023.

Costs

It is not possible to give accurate information regarding the estimated cost of completing the programme of decongregation. It is important to note that the cost of de-congregation varies in accordance with the support and care needs of each individual person.

In some instances transitioning from a house on a campus (congregated setting) to houses in the community is cost neutral or minimal funding is required depending on the current set up on campus. In such cases, revenue funding and not pay budgets are currently in place and the staff will transition with the individuals.

The cost of any particular project is directly related to the scale and scope of said project. In addition, the cost varies depending on the requirements and needs of people availing of support in each location. The design and build and/or purchase and refurbishment of a building that meets all regulatory requirements, is also market dependent.

It is estimated that the cost related to staffing and operating costs for a new service i.e. standard 4 bedded house, in the community, for individuals with high support needs is circa €800,000 per annum.

The capital cost for a new 4 bedded house is circa 1 million to build to the specification required to meet the needs of people with complex disabilities.

The National Housing Strategy 2022 to 2027 places responsibility for the provision of housing with the Department of Housing and it is the responsibility of the HSE to provide additional supports related to care needs. The HSE and Local Authorities are required to work together to map the need and to develop plans for delivering housing to people with disabilities.



There are currently circa 1,400 individuals remaining in congregated settings as per the HSE definition in *Time to Move on from Congregated Settings*.

Yours Sincerely,

Bernard O'Regan

Bernard O'Regan
Assistant National Director
National Disability Team

