

26th September, 2024

Ms. Holly Cairns, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 36081/24

“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the reason annual contracts issued to families of children who are offered weekend respite at a location (details supplied) do not include any details and specifications of their respite time per year; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Details Supplied: CoAction, Dunmanway, Cork.

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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.

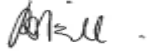
CoAction has advised that Dunmanway Children’s Respite Services is a designated centre under the Health Act 2007. As required by Regulation 24 of the Health Act 2007 (Care and Support of Residents in Designated Centres for Persons (Children and Adults) with Disabilities) Regulations 2013, CoAction West Cork CLG agrees in writing with parents/guardians the care and support to be provided to a child including details of the services to be provided and the fees to be charged while they are admitted to the service.

CoAction West Cork CLG has structures in place to support decision making regarding children who are supported in the service including the length and frequency of this support. This involves engagement with the HSE through the Regional Respite Forum and CoAction’s Children’s Respite & Home Support Committee.

CoAction West Cork CLG acknowledges that the allocated resource available to provide respite to children is less than that required to meet the need in the area. As a result CoAction is required to allocate respite on a risk-assessed needs basis. While they are unable to provide the level of detail requested, CoAction will aim to provide information on the level of supports children will receive on a quarterly basis.

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

Yours sincerely,



Patricia O'Neill
A/ Head of Disability Services
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare

