25th January 2018

Deputy Pearse Doherty TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 55068/17

* To ask the Minister for Health the number of children in County Donegal that require respite services; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Doherty

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.

Below is an outline of the number of children and teens in County Donegal that are availing of respite services through the Donegal Intellectual Disability Service and the Donegal Physical and Sensory Service.

**Donegal Intellectual Disability Services**

The numbers below refer to children 6 - 18 yrs who avail of respite in Designated Respite Centres, provided by Donegal Intellectual Disability Services.

Riverwalk Respite, Inishowen - 14
Seaview Respite House, Mountcharles - 27
Ballymacool Respite, Letterkenny - 56
Drumboe Respite House, Stranorlar - 30

**Total: 127 children**

Donegal Intellectual Disability Services also provide a number of community-based schemes that may be considered as Respite, as follows;

**After school Club** in Ballaghderg Preschool, Letterkenny - 7
**Direct Payments** to grant aid parents to employ someone they know to do activities with the person with ID & ASD - 39
**Home Supports** for the purposes of social, leisure and recreation through the use of agency staff - 4
**ASD Grant Aid** is provided to parents to engage a person they know to spend time with their son / daughter on activities - 24

**Total: 74 children**

Currently the age criteria for children availing of respite in Designated Respite Centres under Donegal Intellectual Disability Services is 6-18yrs. Children under the age of 6 may also be approved, in exceptional circumstances. Currently there are no children 0 – 6 yrs availing of respite in Designated Respite Services.

**Donegal Physical and Sensory Service**

The Donegal Physical & Sensory Service usually provides a home support service for families that may be struggling. Through this service a total of 27 families and 53 teens availed of respite in 2016 and 12 families and 27 teens availed of respite in 2017.

I hope that this is of assistance, but please do not hesitate to contact me if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely

Frank Morrison
Head of Social Care – CHO1