



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,  
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,  
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

Office of the Head of Operations,  
Disability Services/Community Operations,  
31-33 Catherine Street, Limerick.

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9<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Deputy Margaret Murphy O'Mahony,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
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Dear Deputy Murphy O'Mahony,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary question, which was submitted to this department for response.

#### **PQ 15966/19**

*To ask the Minister for Health the number of residential places for persons with a disability being provided at 31 March 2019 or the latest date available by CHO area in tabular form.*

#### **HSE Response**

##### **Residential Services**

Residential services make up the largest part of the Disability funding disbursed by the HSE - €1.1b of the total budget of €1.8 billion in 2018, or 61%.

Approximately 90 service providers provide residential services to over 8,000 individuals throughout the country. The bulk of these are provided by the 50 highest funded agencies (comprising both Section 38 & Section 39 organisations) – some 6,300 places, or 75%. The HSE itself provides 1,300 or 16% of the places.

The table below shows the number of residential places available at end of December 2018, broken down by CHO Area. Data for the first Quarter 2019 is currently being gathered and validated and will not be available until next month.

CHO Area	Residential Places Available January 2018
CHO 1	718
CHO 2	829
CHO 3	874
CHO 4	1158
CHO 5	892

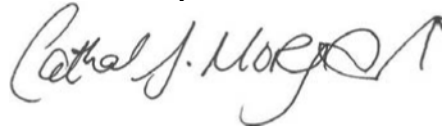
<b>CHO 6</b>	684
<b>CHO 7</b>	1112
<b>CHO 8</b>	875
<b>CHO 9</b>	1142
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>8,284</b>

The HSE National Service Plan 2019 has provided for €15m investment (90 Emergency Residential places) in respect of the provision of planned responses under this category.

However, the need for increased residential facilities is acknowledged and the HSE continues to work with agencies to explore various ways of responding to this need in line with the budget available. A significant underlying challenge relates to the latent unmet need for residential and respite care, which exists in our services as a result of the absence of multi-annual investment during the economic downturn. At the same time, our national database figures indicate an annual requirement of 400 residential places per year to meet identified needs. As a result of this we are now experiencing a high annual demand for emergency residential places to respond to the most urgent cases on our waiting list.

In recognising the service pressures and capacity issues in the sector, for 2019, each CHO and all providers of residential services will be required to implement measures to maximise to the greatest possible extent, the use of existing residential capacity and improve overall value for money in this sector. A range of control measures have been implemented at CHO level over the past two years and these arrangements will be further enhanced in 2019 to ensure that all service providers at local level prioritise the placement of the most urgent cases. In addition, in order to achieve this objective, the HSE will establish an improvement programme involving the establishment of a dedicated team at national level with responsibility for co-ordination and oversight of all residential places including the most effective use of 90 placements provided for in NSP 2019.

Yours sincerely,



**Dr. Cathal Morgan,**  
**Head of Operations - Disability Services,**  
**Community Operations**