



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 15967/19**

*To ask the Minister for Health the number of new emergency places provided to persons with a disability to date in 2019 by CHO area in tabular form*

**PQ 15968/19**

*To ask the Minister for Health the number of new home supports for emergency cases to date in 2019 by CHO area in tabular form.*

**PQ 15969/19**

*To ask the Minister for Health the number of in-home respite supports for emergency cases to date in 2019, by CHO area in tabular form*

**HSE Response**

Data for the first Quarter 2019 is currently being gathered and validated and will not be available until next month.

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. Critical Value Improvement Programme (VIP) actions are also agreed in this area that will a) seek to maximise existing capacity to address unmet need and b) cross community procurement approach to purchasing places within the for profit sector using existing "frameworks".

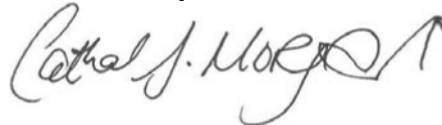
The final decision regarding residential placement lies with CHOs, who *are* actively managing and mitigating the relevant risk issues through lower-cost non-residential interventions, active case-management & inter-agency cooperation. However, it is not possible in all cases to balance the aforementioned with the prevailing risk/safeguarding/health & safety issues, and the CHOs have no discretion but to immediately procure a residential placement.

A particular challenge in 2019 will be to maximise the capacity of the service to respond to residential care needs. A total of 8,568 places will be provided in 2019, representing an increase of 39 on the expected outturn for 2018. The service will seek to maximise current residential and respite capacity to ensure an appropriate response to emerging needs during the year. Emergency cases will continue to be addressed on an individual prioritised basis.

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.

In this context, Disability Operations undertook a scoping exercise with CHOs in relation to the utilisation of existing capacity, which has demonstrated limited opportunity in this area. NSP 2019 VIP measures regarding further examination is taking place with a view to ascertaining whether further bed capacity can be yielded; however, it remains the case that caution is advised here as it is unlikely to yield significant new capacity on a cost neutral basis.

Yours sincerely,



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