



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.

T: 00353 (0) 61 483369

9<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Deputy Margaret Murphy O'Mahony,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
e-mail: [margaret.murphyomahony@oireachtas.ie](mailto:margaret.murphyomahony@oireachtas.ie)

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 15970/19**

*To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons moved on from a congregated setting to date in 2019, by CHO area in tabular form*

#### **HSE Response**

##### **A Time to Move on from Congregated Settings**

In June 2011 the Report "Time to Move on from Congregated Settings – A Strategy for Community Inclusion" was published, which identified that in 2008 approximately 4,000 individuals with disabilities lived in congregated type settings, defined as where ten or more people reside in a single living unit or are campus based. It found that notwithstanding the commitment and initiative of dedicated staff and management, that there were a significant number of people still experiencing institutional living conditions where they lacked basic privacy and dignity, and lived their lives apart from any community and family.

The report recommended a seven year timeframe for the implementation of the policy from 2012 - 2019 and the 2016 Programme for Government identifies that there should be a one- third reduction in the number of individuals residing on congregated settings by the year 2021, which reflects the continued commitment of the Government to the policy of decongregation, whilst acknowledging that the process of supporting each person to transition from a congregated setting to a community based service in a sustainable and safe way requires planning and time.

##### **Current Progress**

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

To the end of December 2018, 155 people transitioned into the Community and a further 99 people have either died or have permanently left congregated settings. Taking into account these reductions in 2018 the number currently in Congregated Settings is approximately 2,114.

De-Congregation Summary Actual 2018

CHO	2018				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
1	7	4	2	1	14
2	4	4	0	3	11
3	1	2	0	1	4
4	0	0	9	18	27
5	1	6	0	22	29
6	1	1	0	1	3
7	10	3	9	10	32
8	5	1	2	12	20
9	0	0	3	12	15
Total	29	21	25	80	155

Programme for Government when launched in May 2016 indicated that the Government and the programme would see the reduction of 2,725 by 900 to approximately 1,800 by 2021.

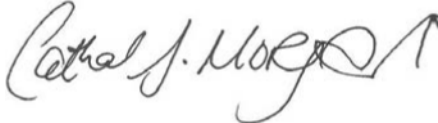
Additional capital funding of €100m has been made available between the years 2016 -2021 (approx. €20m per year). Service reform fund (€45m over 3 years/ €4.5m 2018) will further support transition and innovation.

**Potential Concern/challenge**

Over past 18 months progress has been slowed by challenges in the housing market in identifying, acquiring, and converting suitable accommodation in the community.

While we don't expect the housing boom to ease off in the foreseeable future, in order to overcome these challenges, we are continuing with our programme of sourcing suitable accommodation through our own estates management unit and through commissioning a number of specialised housing providers.

Yours sincerely,



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