



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

13<sup>th</sup> December 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 questions, which were submitted to this department for response.

#### PQ 50981/19

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

#### PQ 50982/19

*To ask the Minister for Health the number of new emergency places provided to persons with a disability at the end of November 2019 by local health office in tabular form.*

#### HSE Response

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.

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 Q3, 2019, broken down by CHO.

CHO Area	Residential Places Available Quarter 3 2019
CHO 1	713
CHO 2	844
CHO 3	896
CHO 4	1,110
CHO 5	918
CHO 6	631
CHO 7	1,093
CHO 8	856
CHO 9	1,160
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>8,221</b>

## New Emergency Places

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.

The table below shows the number of new residential placements provided up to end of October 2019, broken down by CHO Area. Data on the number of new emergency places provided to persons with a disability at the end of November 2019 will not be available until the end of December 2019.

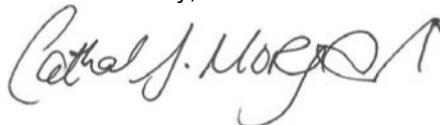
CHO Area	New Residential Placements
1	6
2	5
3	12
4	5
5	7
6	7
7	13
8	5
9	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>

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 are 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 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 has established 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**