



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

23<sup>rd</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 52411/19**

*To ask the Minister for Health the number of new persons with a disability that commenced respite services (details supplied) to date in 2019.*

Details supplied; ID/Autism and Physical and Sensory Disability.

**PQ 52412/19**

*To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons with a disability formally discharged from respite services (details supplied) to date in 2019*

Details supplied; ID/Autism and Physical and Sensory Disability.


**HSE Response**

The HSE and its funded Agencies provide respite care to children and adults with disabilities. Respite can occur in a variety of settings for various lengths of time, depending on the needs of the individual service user, the family and according to available resources. Respite is not always centre-based and can be provided in a number of ways, e.g. Centre based; In-Home; Home-to-Home; Family Support, etc. As a vital part of the continuum of services for families, respite potentially helps prevent out-of-home full-time residential placements, preserves the family unit, and supports family stability with the service users at the centre.

Allocation of respite services is based on the individual's needs and circumstances. HSE Service Managers work with service users and their families as well as the Service Providers of respite services to ensure the provision of a client focused service, establish priority need and ensure best practice and maximization of funding and other resources. To end of September 2019, 720 new people with a disability commenced respite services (ID/Autism and Physical and Sensory Disability); while 500 people were formally discharged from respite services during the same period.

The HSE is very much aware of the importance of respite service provision for the families of both children and adults with disabilities and the impact the absence of respite service provision can have on other services being delivered. The need for increased respite 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.

Yours sincerely,



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