



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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

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6<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Deputy Margaret Murphy O'Mahony  
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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 questions, which were submitted to this department for response.

#### PQ 53819/19

*To ask the Minister for Health the funding provided in each of the years 2014 to 2018 and to date in 2019 for respite overnights with or without day respite accessed by persons with a disability in tabular form.*

#### PQ 53820/19

*To ask the Minister for Health the funding provided in each of the years 2014 to 2018 and to date in 2019 for day only respite sessions accessed by persons with a disability in tabular form.*

#### HSE Response

##### Funding provided for Respite Care

On an annual basis, the HSE National Service Plan provides for a significant level of funding to deliver essential frontline services for people with a disability. These core services span a spectrum of essential interventions ranging from Clinical Therapeutic Supports, Rehabilitative Training / Day Services, Home Care Supports as well as Respite and Residential provision. This funding reflects an incremental increase in the provision of funding to the Disability service as follows;

2014: €1.4 billion  
2015: €1.5 billion  
2016: €1.6 billion  
2017: €1.7 billion  
2018: €1.8 billion  
2019: €1.9 billion

All funded services are required to deliver safe and effective services within a defined budget allocation. This allocation is spent in line with nationally agreed policy for disability services whilst at the same time maximizing value. The HSE must also ensure that it prioritises available resources on the basis of meeting the health and social needs of people with a disability.

The manner in which funding is allocated/distributed allows for a distinction between broad categories of funding such as services for older people, primary care and disabilities in general. Disability services are provided based on the needs of an individual rather than by the actual type of disability or service required. Funding allocated to respite services is not routinely collated and aggregated into a statistical profile. In addition, it is not possible to separate the funding for respite overnights (with or without day respite) and day only respite sessions. However, the Value for Money and Policy Review of the Disability Services, analysing 2009 activity, estimated that approximately 4% of the annual budget is spent on respite services each year. In 2017 approximately €41.595m was spent on respite services whilst in 2018 approximately €54.1 million was spent on respite services.

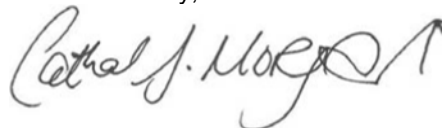
### **Additional Funding for Respite Services**

HSE Disability Services has been allocated c. €2 billion in 2020. The Service Plan 2020 sets out, at a high level, the anticipated service activity levels that will be delivered commensurate with this substantial state investment. The HSE welcomes the announcement of an additional €30.5m for Disability Services including €5m for respite services. In 2020, the HSE will provide:

- Provide 8,358 residential places
- Provide adult day services and supports for in excess of 23,000 adults with physical and sensory disabilities, intellectual disability and autism in over 950 service locations throughout the country
- Identify approximately 1,600 young people due to leave school or rehabilitative training and provide approximately 1,200 new placements in 2020 to meet their needs
- Deliver home support and PA hours to approximately 10,000 people with disabilities including an additional 40,000 PA hours in 2020
- Provide an additional 56 new emergency residential placements
- Provide eight appropriate residential places for people currently living in respite care as an emergency response to their needs, while also freeing up the vacated respite accommodation for future use
- Provide 144 intensive transitional support packages for children and young people with complex / high support needs focusing on families experiencing substantial levels of support need, but who do not require a high cost long term placement. Specifically, this new development initiative is the pre-crisis intervention stage and will include:
  - intensive in-home visiting supports
  - planned residential respite interventions
  - specialist behavioural support interventions
  - access to planned extended day / weekend and summer day based activities
- Provide 166,183 nights (with or without day respite) to people with disabilities and 33,712 day only respite sessions.

The need for increased respite facilities is acknowledged and the HSE continues to work with agencies to explore various ways of responding to this need.

Yours sincerely,



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