



Oifig an Cheannasaí Oibríochtaí & Feabhsúcháin Seirbhíse
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta
Tel: 061 483245
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Office of the Assistant National Director - Operations
Services for Older People
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28/06/2019
Deputy Peadar Tóibín, TD
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) 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 ref 27026/19

To ask the Minister for Health the number of respite beds available by CHO; the operational capacity to date; the waiting lists for respite beds in each CHO area; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Respite care is an essential component to ensuring older people with care needs in the home including those with Dementia can be cared for in their community and close to their carers. Respite beds offer additional assistance to families and carers thus helping to alleviate the ongoing stress associated with providing care. The provision of respite can often assist with avoidable acute hospital admissions.

Respite care is provided in a number of different ways and settings across the health system. It is provided through designated respite beds in Public Residential centres and also 'contracted' by the HSE in private nursing homes to boost the availability of such beds to meet demand, within the resources available in the local area. Respite can be provided on an emergency basis for unforeseen circumstances that occur due to bereavement/illness of carers or emergency environmental changes to the residence of the client. Planned Respite can be provided to clients, which allows carers a planned break throughout the year. Respite care is organised through a GP or local Public Health Nurse in conjunction with the client and their carers and is seen as a part of the continuum of care for the client.

The following is the number of respite beds in public residential care centres for older people in each CHO Area, as per May 2019 data. Also, there were approximately 115 respite beds contracted by the HSE in private nursing homes across the country.

Yours sincerely,

Sandra Tuohy
Assistant National Director – Operations
Services for Older People



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Respite Beds in Public Residential Care Centres for Older People

Area	Total Respite Beds
Area 1 (Donegal, Sligo/Leitrim, Cavan/Monaghan)	82
Area 2 (Mayo, Roscommon, Galway)	50
Area 3 (Clare, Limerick, Tipperary/East Limerick)	66
Area 4 (Cork, Kerry)	81
Area 5 (Waterford, Wexford, Carlow/Kilkenny, South Tipperary)	54
Area 6 (Dun Laoghaire, Dublin South East, Wicklow)	27
Area 7 (Dublin South City, Dublin South West, Kildare/West Wicklow)	47
Area 8 (Louth, Meath, Laois/Offaly, Longford/Westmeath)	37
Area 9 (Dublin North, Dublin North Central, Dublin North West)	22
Total Respite Beds	466