



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

25<sup>th</sup> November 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 47003/19

*To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons that have been assisted to leave congregated settings in each year since 2016; and the number of persons in congregated settings at the end of 2016 to 2018 and the latest date available in 2019.*

#### HSE Response

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

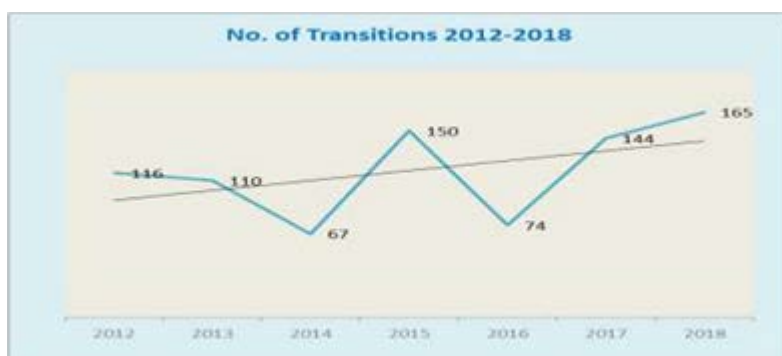
In June 2011 the Report "Time to Move on from Congregated Settings – A Strategy for Community Inclusion" was published, which identified that in 2008 approximately 4,000 individuals with disabilities lived in congregated type settings, defined as where ten or more people reside in a single living unit 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. The 2016 Programme for Government identifies that there should be a one- third reduction in the number of individuals residing in 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.

##### Status of congregated Settings

The HSE National Service Plan (NSP) 2018 identified a target of 160 people to complete their transition from a congregated setting during the year. The Master Data Set which captures data on the movements in the congregated settings population confirms that 165 people completed their transitions, ten more than were reported at the end of the year. It is important to keep in mind that due to varying reasons including personal health, medical reasons and end of life care, there continues to be a small number of admissions to congregated settings each year.

The Chart below shows the number of people who have transitioned over the period 2012 to 2018 inclusive. As depicted in the chart, while some years have lower numbers, there is an overall steady increase over the seven years. The total number of transitions over this period of time is 826 people.



With regard to the question on the number of persons that remain in congregated settings by CHO area, the HSE has validated that on the 31st December 2018 there were 2,136 people resident in congregated settings. The Table below outlines the numbers of people in congregated settings at the end of 2018 by each CHO area.

CHO Area	No of people in Congregated setting @ end of December 2018
1	161
2	94
3	223
4	575
5	104
6	111
7	370
8	82
9	416
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,136</b>

### Current Progress

The target for persons to be moved out of congregated settings in 2019 is 160. To the end of September (Q3) 2019, 78 people transitioned into the Community and a further 85 people have either died (66) or have permanently left congregated settings. There were also a small number of admissions to congregated settings reported to September 2019.

This would suggest that there were less than 2,000 people residing in Congregated Settings at end of September 2019. It is important to note that 2019 figures will require full check and endorsement in early 2020.

The Programme for Government launched in May 2016, set a target reduction of 1/3rd by 2021. As the number of persons living in congregated settings at that time was 2,725, reducing the number of people living in congregated settings by 2021 to 1800 was envisaged (900 less).

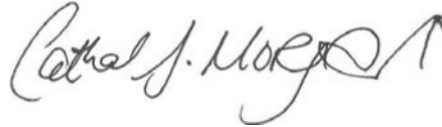
Additional capital funding of €100m has been made available between the years 2016 -2021 (approx. €20m per year). Service reform fund (€45m over 3 years/ €4.5m 2018) will further support transition and innovation.

### **Potential Concern/challenge**

Over past two years 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**