

14th August, 2020

Mr John Brady T.D.,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ 19879/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of respite hours provided to families in County Wicklow over each of the past 12 months; the number provided each month since March 2020 to date.

Dear Deputy Brady,

Thank you for your parliamentary question in relation to the respite service in Wicklow. I am responding in the context of HSE Community Healthcare East (CHO6). I apologise for the delay in our response.

Within this area of service, we refer to respite weeks rather than respite hours. In 2019, there were 258 weeks of respite available within older person services and the full allocation was utilised. Heretofore, people have used this service in one week or two week blocks of respite.

Since March 2020 due to the restrictions of the COVID pandemic, all respite service have been temporarily suspended. This was to mitigate the high risk of infection moving in and out of residential services. Our Home Support Service has been used to support clients with respite care needs to provide additional support to clients and their families at this time. HSE Community Healthcare East are working towards the safe recommencement of respite care in autumn 2020. This will be done in consultation with Public Health and will be based on national guidance.

If you have any other queries or require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Fiona Hammond
General Manager
Social Care for Older Persons
HSE Community Healthcare East