



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
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24th June 2020

Deputy James Browne,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: james.browne@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Browne,

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 10862/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of residential places for persons with a disability being provided at the end of May 2020 or the latest date available; and the breakdown by CHO area of same in tabular form.

PQ 10863/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of new emergency places provided to persons with a disability at the end of May 2020; and the breakdown by local health office area of same in tabular form

HSE Response

Residential services make up the largest part of the Disability funding disbursed by the HSE – over 60% of the total budget of €1.9 billion in 2019.

Approximately 90 service providers provide residential services to over 8,000 individuals throughout the country. The bulk of these are provided by the 50 highest funded agencies (comprising both Section 38 & Section 39 organisations) – some 6,300 places, or 75%. The HSE itself provides 1,300 or 16% of the places.

In 2020, the following detail sets out, at a high level specific to Residential services, the service activity levels that were due to be delivered commensurate with this substantial state investment, prior to the onset of the COVID-19 public health emergency:

- Provide in excess of 8,000 residential places
- 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 planned residential respite interventions as well as other interventions.

The table below shows the number of residential places available at end May 2020, broken down CHO Area.

CHO Area	Residential Places Available Quarter 1 2020
CHO 1	715
CHO 2	840
CHO 3	819
CHO 4	1,071
CHO 5	886
CHO 6	624
CHO 7	1,113
CHO 8	873
CHO 9	1,246
Grand Total	8,187

Emergency Placements

The table below shows the number of new emergency residential placements provided to end of May 2020, broken down by CHO Area.

CHO Area	New Residential Placements	Covid Related	Total
1	0	0	0
2	0	1	1
3	4	3	7
4	3	0	3
5	4	7	11
6	0	0	0
7	5	0	5
8	5	4	9
9	3	9	12
Total	24	24	48

COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

In preparing for and responding to COVID-19 and to fully align with Public Health guidance as recommended via the NPHET, the HSE and its partner service providers put in place a range of measures, which included the prioritisation of vital residential (including new emergency residential placements) and home support services whilst curtailing or closing certain services such as day services, respite services, and certain clinical supports in order to; a) prioritise essential public health services at CHO level and b) ensure continued delivery of the referenced residential and home supports provision. I should note that in the absence of regular access to some service and supports, CHOs and service providers have tried to maintain services that can be delivered safely; providing outreach and telecare solutions, using technology where possible; and using creative and innovative models of care to support service users, both adults and children.

Roadmap for Reopening

Processes are underway in order to plan for the reintroduction of non-Covid services. In that regard the HSE has now developed a number of important guidance documents to assist disability services. These are now available on the link below and are as follows:

1. Framework for Resumption of Adult Day Services;

2. Reshaping Disability Services From 2020 & Beyond

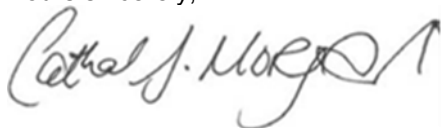
<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/newsfeatures/covid19-updates/partner-resources/>

It is important to note that the above guidance is interim and subject to change in line with the overall management of the Covid-19 pandemic and in accordance with contemporary Public Health Guidance.

The HSE continues to plan the re-establishment of vital non-covid supports and services. This includes very careful and detailed work on the part of the Disability Sector with national guidance and will result in directing how all funded agencies can deliver services on a medium to long-term basis. Plans have to comply with guidance as set out by the National Public Health Emergency Team as well as Public Health specialists in the HSE.

The Disability Sector is re-establishing a number of structures including the National Consultative Forum as well as other operational structures that will co-ordinate and support the sector as we continue to navigate this pandemic and make every effort to deliver supports and services in line with Public Health Guidance.

Yours sincerely,



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