



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Head of Disability Service  
South East Community Healthcare  
Health Service Executive  
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19<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Mr. David Cullinane T.D.,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 4788/20**

**To ask the Minister for Health the current use and capacity of a respite care house for persons with an intellectual disability at Summerville Avenue, Waterford City; the cost of running the service; the cost of bringing the house into full-time use; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

*I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.*

The house in Summerville is owned and operated by Waterford Intellectual Disability Association (WIDA) who provide respite services for Adults and Children with Disabilities in Waterford city and environs.

This service can facilitate up to 5 clients but it is understood would rarely have this number at any one time. This is due to the varying complexities of the cases who present. On occasion children or adults who have particularly complex needs or challenging behaviours may require a standalone service. It is estimated that an additional sum of €140,000 per annum would be required for the house to provide a full time service.

As with other areas, the provision of disability services including centre-based respite services in Waterford has come under further pressure in recent years. There is an increase in the number of persons that are seeking access to these services. There is currently increasing levels of “changing needs” due to the increase in the age of the disability population. The disability service must provide effective and safe services within and not beyond the funding allocated for 2020. At all times, service providers and the HSE are balancing the needs of multiple service users and aiming to meet the needs of the maximum number of service users, within the available resources.

I trust that this clarifies. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janette Dwyer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a trailing flourish.

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**Ms. Janette Dwyer**  
**Head of Disability Service**  
**South East Community Healthcare**