



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,**  
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25<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Deputy Michael Moynihan,  
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Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
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Dear Deputy Moynihan,

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 23312/20**

*To ask the Minister for Health the number of residential places for persons with a disability currently being provided as of 31 August 2020 or latest date available by CHO area 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 August 2020, broken down CHO Area.

CHO Area	Residential Places Available Quarter 1 2020
CHO 1	711
CHO 2	840

<b>CHO 3</b>	818
<b>CHO 4</b>	1,071
<b>CHO 5</b>	884
<b>CHO 6</b>	576
<b>CHO 7</b>	1,113
<b>CHO 8</b>	870
<b>CHO 9</b>	1,236
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>8,119</b>

### 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 NPHE, 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

In the context of the Governments Resilience & Recovery Framework (2020 – 2021), the HSE regards the provision of disability services as essential to maintaining a response to people with a disability. All disability services must follow public health guidance in this area, including the prevention and management of COVID-19 related infection. The HSE and its funded disability partners will continue to provide disability services in line with public health guidance and direction and having regard to the availability of staffing resources.

Reference is drawn to the following HSE weblink which provides updates and guidance for disability service providers, including 'service resumption planning guidance'.

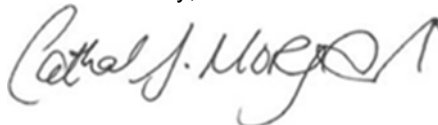
<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/newsfeatures/covid19-updates/partner-resources/>

Attention is also drawn to the following important web links which provides up to date information resources in respect of COVID-19 - [www.hspc.ie](http://www.hspc.ie)

<https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/c36c85-covid-19-coronavirus/>

The HSE and Service Providers recognise the critical need and importance of disability supports for people and their families. The impact of COVID-19 on people's lives has and continues to be very significant. Our collective aim is to restore services in a safe way and in line with the very significant investment made by the State and funded agencies and we will continue to work with service users and their families/carers to ensure that we achieve this aim.

Yours sincerely,



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