



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

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30th June 2021

Deputy Sean Sherlock,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: sean.sherlock@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

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: 21223/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of outstanding applications for acceptance to residential institution settings by CHO area, broken down in internal areas within each CHO and the length of time per application outstanding in tabular form.

HSE Response

Residential services make up the largest part of the Disability funding allocated by the HSE – over 60% of the total budget of €2.2 billion in 2021.

HSE Disability Services has introduced a system called the Disability Support Application Management Tool (DSMAT), which enables Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) areas to record and manage requests for support and to ensure that the application process is equitable and transparent.

The DSMAT provides a consistent listing process for each CHO Area by presenting a detailed profile of the individuals (Adults & Children) who require funded supports outside of the current service quantum.

It captures detailed information on home and family circumstances and a detailed presentation profile of the individuals, including specialised profiles of behavioural intensity, key diagnoses, and complex support needs due to the extent and intensity of intellectual and/or physical & sensory disability. It is important to note that in the absence of a statutory, legislative framework providing entitlement to services, the DSMAT is not a chronological waiting list. Rather, it is a support to the CHO area to feed into its decision making process around prioritisation of services subject to budgetary constraints. This means that services are allocated on the basis of greatest presenting need and associated risk factors.

The demand for full-time residential placements within designated centres is extremely high, and is reflective of the absence of multi-year development funding that has not been in place since 2007/2008. As of July 2020, there were 1,033 Residential Placements applications, of which 65 applications (6.3%) are for children's residential, with the remainder for Adults (92.7%).

Please see summary table below as of July 2020 extract. The figures provided represent a "point in time" analysis and may not include applications received in to the CHO but not yet processed onto the DSMAT tool.

	CHO1	CHO2	CHO3	CHO4	CHO5	CHO6	CHO7	CHO8	CHO9
New Residential Service	32	110	100	323	91	140	78	93	66

It should be noted it is not a chronological waiting list. The allocation of service is made on the basis of presenting need and/or associated risk factors. Each CHO continues to actively manage applications for support from service users with high levels of acuity/ safeguarding risks, through lower-cost non-residential interventions such as in-home and Residential Respite, active case-management and inter-agency cooperation.

In previous years, funding has been allocated in the National Service Plan (NSP) to provide for additional new emergency residential placements:

- The HSE responded to 474 “emergency places/cases” between 2014 and 2016.
- NSP 2017 made provision for 185 new emergency residential placements and new home support and in-home respite for 210 additional people who required emergency supports.
- NSP 2018 allocated funding for a further 130 new emergency places together with 255 new home support/in home respite supports for emergency cases.
- NSP 2019 provided for a €15m investment (90 Emergency Residential places) in respect of the provision of planned responses under this category.
- NSP 2020 provided for an additional 56 new emergency residential placements and 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. NSP also provided for 44 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 HSE welcomes the announcement of an additional €100 million secured for Disability Services in the recent budget. The specific breakdown of this investment will be discussed as part of the normal service planning process and will be detailed in the National Service Plan. However, the HSE anticipates that significant funding will be allocated for the development of new Emergency Residential Places.
- In the 2021 National Service Plan, the HSE has been allocated €5.5 million to develop 44 emergency residential places and €6 million to develop 358 additional intensive respite support packages to children and young adults. In addition, the HSE has been allocated €5.5 million to develop 36 planned residential placements; €3 million to provide an additional 18 residential places for under 65’s currently residing in Nursing Home settings; and €5.2 million to implement the joint HSE and Tusla interagency protocol, prioritising in 2021 co-funding the placement of 33 children and supporting the move of a number of young adults from Tusla to adult disability services. This will also include a further 4 in year Transitions from Tusla to HSE adult residential services.

Yours sincerely,



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