



Ceann na Seirbhíse Míchumas
Eagraíocht Chúram Sláinte Limistéar 1
(An Cabhán, Dún na nGall, Liatroim, Muineachán & Sligeach)
Áras Isacc Butt, Bealach Féich, Tír Chonaill F93 YV9R
Head of Service Disability
HSE Area 1 (Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan &
Sligo)
The Isacc Butt Building , Ballybofey
Co. Donegal F93 YV9R
Tel+353(0)74 9189028 or (0)74 9189032
Email: Edel.Quinn@hse.ie

24th November 2021

Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ ref 54533/21 – To ask the Minister for Health the disability respite services that are currently available in Inishowen, County Donegal

Dear Deputy Mac Lochlainn

I refer to parliamentary question regarding respite services in Co Donegal. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Donegal Disability Services overnight respite service provision in Inishowen operates from Riverwalk House, Carndonagh.

Currently, a number of people with disabilities are availing of respite beds in Riverwalk House, Carndonagh on a full time basis and there is no additional availability there at present.

Alternative residential accommodation is actively being sought for these service users to allow for Riverwalk to re-open for respite for other service users and their families. HSE Property Management and Estates departments are working with Disability Services to progress housing. Disability Services have ongoing engagement with Donegal County Council in relation to housing requirements for people with disabilities but no housing can be identified by the County Council to meet the needs of the people currently in Riverwalk. The availability of property in Inishowen has been limited, both for lease and purchase. A number of options were pursued but then withdrawn for various reasons. A number of potential lease arrangements were not progressed by landlords due to the extensive upgrade works typically required with any residential property if it is to meet regulatory standards for registration with HIQA.

On a prioritised basis, respite services are provided to people with disabilities from Inishowen at the Donegal Disability Services' respite house in Letterkenny, Ballymacool House. Home support packages are also provided to people and families as an alternative form of respite. In addition the HSE funds a number of community organisations to provide support packages to children and young people with disabilities.

The provision of additional respite beds remains a priority for Donegal Services and CHO1 is awaiting confirmation of service development funding to be made available in its allocated budget for 2022.

I trust that this is of assistance but please do not hesitate to contact me if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely



Edel Quinn
Head of Service Disability CHO1
Ceann na Seirbhíse Míchumas
Eagraíocht Chúram Sláinte Limistéar 1