



**26<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

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**Head of Service for Disability**

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**PQ ref 55770/21**

To ask the Minister for Health the number of respite hours provided to families in CHO 9 in 2020 and to date in 2021, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position in relation to the Disabilities Service within Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC).

CHO DNCC Disability Services commissions respite services for children and adults from Section 38 and Section 39 organisations as well as private providers.

CHO DNCC Disability Services funds respite services for children through the provision of overnight respite beds. From the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 to the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021 we had 28 funded respite beds which increased to 33 respite beds on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021. All children's respite beds are registered with the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA).

This equates to the following funded overnight respite hours:

Year	No of Overnights	No of Children's Overnight Respite Beds	Hours * based on nine hours per night per bed
<b>1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021</b>	243	28	61,236
<b>1<sup>st</sup> September – 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021</b>	85	33	25,245
<b>2020</b>	358	28	90,216

Tusla also provide overnight respite for children living within CHO DNCC.

In addition, there is alternative respite care options available, such as afterschool, school holidays, host families, evening and weekend support. Home care packages delivered to children and young people also have a respite component.

I also wish to advise there are 38 overnight respite beds available to adults. 33 of these overnight beds are registered with HIQA. This equates to the following funded overnight respite hours:

Year	No of Overnights	No of Adults Overnight Respite Beds	Hours * based on nine hours per night per bed
<b>1<sup>st</sup> January – 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021</b>	328	38	112,176
<b>2020</b>	358	38	122,436


There is alternative non-residential respite support available to adults through the provision of home supports. CHO DNCC Disability Services also contracts Nursing Home beds to provide respite care for adults with medical management issues.

Children and Adults with a disability who live within the area of CHO DNCC also avail of respite care outside of the geographical area of CHO DNCC by agreement of the Health Service Executive.

Unfortunately, the number of respite hours delivered to families since March 2020 has been severely impacted due to the Covid – 19 emergency and adherence to Public Health Guidelines. In addition, it may be necessary at times to reduce capacity within a unit to ensure the safeguarding of service users with high support and complex needs.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours sincerely,



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**Ms Olive Hanley**  
**Head of Service for Disability**