



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,**  
Disability Services/Social Care Division,  
31-33 Catherine Street, Limerick.

T: 00353 (0) 61 483369  
Suíomh Gréasáin/Website: <http://www.hse.ie>

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Deputy Carol Nolan  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
E-mail: [carol.nolan@oireachtas.ie](mailto:carol.nolan@oireachtas.ie)

Dear Deputy Nolan

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 51864/21**

*To ask the Minister for Health the actions he is taking to address the inappropriate placement of young persons with disabilities in nursing homes; the number of such young persons currently placed in nursing homes; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

**HSE Response**

A project commenced in 2021 to support 18 people under NSP 2021 to move from Nursing Home Care to the Community. A budget of €3million was secured for this, which equates to €166,000 per person for direct care support hours. This project is being delivered by the Community Healthcare Areas (CHOs) and each Area is working within this budget. There was no additional funding for capital or project overhead costs included.

The National Placement Oversight and Review Team (NPORT) are supporting a number of CHO Areas conducting reviews and assessments to inform person centred care and transition plans.

The work to support people aged under 65 living in nursing homes to move to homes of their choosing in the community is being delivered on the basis of the will and preference of each person.

As each individual's situation and circumstances are unique to them, a person by person approach is being taken. Supports will be put in place as required based on each individual's needs.

The HSE will be working in collaboration with service providers, the person and their families, where this is the wish of the person, to put in place the supports that will enable each person to move.

Each CHO is leading the transition of at least two people based on the allocations in the National Service Plan, 2021. The support needs of each person are assessed and as mentioned above, this subsequently informs the transition plan and support for the person. CHOs are on track to meet the target for 2022 and a summary report will be compiled at that stage to inform further developments in this area.

The HSE has appointed a Project Lead under the Service Reform Fund to undertake a mapping exercise of the current population of people under the age of 65 in nursing homes to determine the level of need and

funding, both for supports and housing, and to develop the pathway to appropriate support arrangements. This work will be concluded in mid-2022.

It is important to note that this is a pilot project and a key outcome will be to determine the overall requirements and costs associated with the transitioning of people from nursing homes: revenue, once off and ongoing, pay and non-pay and the minor capital and capital costs. It is expected that there will be a range in funding required to support each person which will be influenced by:

- level and type of support needed,
- the current funding arrangements (potential for de-bundling),
- planned post- transition arrangement (alternative community residential service, personalised budget, return to existing family home etc).

The additional care options and true cost of decongregation for the people in nursing homes is still being explored as in many cases these are the cohort of residents that remain in these settings due to the requirement for significant nursing supports and appropriate accommodation.

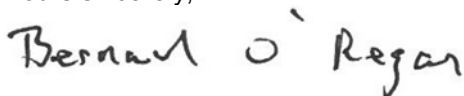
With regard to the query concerning the number of such young persons currently placed in nursing homes, a report obtained from the Nursing Home Support Office indicates that there are 1,320 residents under 65 years of age in Nursing Homes as at 30/09/2021.

It is important to note however, that this number represents those in receipt of the Nursing Home Support Scheme funding only and it does not include people who may have alternative payment arrangements.

In addition, this number is based on the age of the individual. The NHSS office does not have information on the reasons why residents are deemed to require Long Term Residential care or any medical condition or disability they may have.

As mentioned above, a mapping exercise will be concluded in mid-2022.

Yours sincerely,



**Bernard O'Regan**  
**Head of Operations - Disability Services,**  
**Community Operations**