



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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Deputy David Cullinane,  
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Dublin 2.  
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Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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 41757/21**

*To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost to move 100 adults with a disability aged under 65 from a nursing home to assisted living; and the breakdown of ancillary costs..*

#### **HSE Response**

The HSE National Service Plan 2021 commits to the provision of 18 places to support people with disability under the age of 65 to move from nursing homes to their own home in the community.

This project commenced in 2021 with 18 people targeted to move at a cost of €3 million (€166,667 per person for direct care support hours). There was no additional funding for capital or project overhead costs included.

This is a pilot project and a key outcome will be to determine the overall funding 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 current proposal for Estimates 2022 is €13,500,000 direct funding to support 54 people to transition, which brings the average cost to €250,000 per person. This is a significant increase in delivery on 2021 target, recognising that this is a priority and that there are a significant number of people to be supported.

The funding is equivalent to 20 hours care support per day per person, but this will fund nursing and care supports, therapy interventions and at times 2:1 staffing as needed.

On the basis of current NSP 2022 bid to support 54 people at a cost of €250,000 per person, the estimated cost to move 100 adults with a disability aged under 65 from a nursing home to assisted living would be approximately €25,000,000.

## Caveats

- The costs per person provided are an average. There are significantly large variations depending on the support needs of the individuals and the current funding arrangements.
- The 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.
- Minor Capital/One off Revenue Funding where a person can access social or other available mainstream housing options, minor capital funding and access to once off non-pay revenue funding may be a key enabler to provide for the works /equipping needed to facilitate the person to move into their home. The provision of €250,000 per person is intended to allow some scope for once off non-pay revenue costs during the initial project as the cost model is teased out.
- Capital Funding: Delivering appropriate housing for the people transitioning from the nursing home settings will need to be achieved through a number of different options depending on support and housing needs. Funding for housing projects under the HSE Capital funding stream, in line with the Time To Move on policy, may be required to support the transition of people from nursing homes to community, where a person is transitioning to a community residential service.

Yours sincerely,



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