



**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.

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10<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Deputy Pauline Tully,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
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Dear Deputy Tully,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary questions, which were submitted to this department for response.

**PQ: 20267/22**

*To ask the Minister for Health the cost to deliver one additional day service place for a school leaver with a disability or graduate of rehabilitative training; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

**PQ: 20268/22**

*To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of developing and implementing a process of identifying and managing day service vacancies as contained within the HSE Service Plan 2022; the timeframe for the delivery of developing and implementing this process; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

**PQ: 20477/22**

*To ask the Minister for Health the number of additional day service places that were allocated in each of the past five years; the budget that was allocated to provide additional day service places in each of the past five years; the number of additional day service places that were taken up in each of the past five years; the final amount that was spent on delivering additional day service places in each of the past five years; the number of persons exiting or no longer using day service provision in each of the past five years in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

**PQ: 20478/22**

*To ask the Minister for Health the total number of day services here; the percentage of these operating at 100% capacity; the average capacity in day services that are operational; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*



## PQ: 20479/22

To ask the Minister for Health the estimated unit cost of providing one additional full day service for a person with a disability; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

### HSE Response

Disability services are delivered through HSE services, section 38 / section 39 and for-profit providers. The range of specialist disability services that are provided to 60,000 people with physical, sensory, intellectual disabilities and autism spans residential, home support and personal assistance services, clinical / allied therapies, neuro-rehabilitation services, respite, day and rehabilitative training.

With regard to day services, the 2022 Service Plan aims to:

- Provide an additional 1,700 day service places for school leavers and graduates of rehabilitative training
- Develop and implement a process for identifying and managing day service vacancies
- The HSE, DoH, Department of Education and Department of Higher Education to engage regarding post-secondary school pathways for young people to provide the fullest array of options including day services, access to further and higher education and apprenticeships

Each young adult who leaves school or a Rehabilitative Training programme and has a requirement for a HSE funded day service, is profiled by the HSE Day Opportunities /Guidance Officers to establish their support needs.

The cost of a day service placement is directly linked to the support needs of each individual. Cost bands ranging from €14,000 - €55,000 are currently used to allocate funding based on identified need.

There are occasions when in excess of €55,000 is required to meet complex needs. The average cost of a new day placement is €30,000 per placement.

### The Framework for the Management of Vacant Places in Day Services

The Framework for the Management of Vacant Places in Day Services was developed by the National Disability Day Service Team in conjunction with Day Opportunities Coordinators throughout the country. This development was delivered within existing resources and will be managed through the existing National Day Service Application. The Framework was launched in December 2021 and is currently being implemented by Day Opportunity Teams in the nine CHOs.

With regard to the number of additional day service places that were allocated in each of the past five years; and the additional queries, the table below contains details of the number of new placements allocated and used for the period 2017 – 2021 together with the funding allocated to provide those placements. In regard to the number of persons exiting service during those years, we do not have complete data but the Framework for the Management of Vacant places will address the tracking of exit data going forward.

Year	New Places	New Funding Allocated	Places Taken up	Amount spent on delivery
2017	1252	€20m	1252	€20m
2018	1059	€25m	1059	€25m
2019	1109	€24.5m	1109	€24.5m
2020	1066	€24.5m	1066	€24.5m
2021	1105	€31.8m	1105	€31.8m



With regard to the total number of day services here, there are currently 1022 day service locations throughout the country providing day services to approx. 20,000 service users.

HSE Guidance to the disability day sector which issued in October 2021 indicated that all day service locations should be operating at full capacity as of October 2021. It is acknowledged that the COVID 19 surge in January 2022 led to some reduced services and it is expected that there will be ongoing disruption to services in the event of further surges. It is also noted that some service users have opted to suspend their service due to COVID 19. CHOs are working with local provider locations to ensure full capacity is availed of in all locations.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B. Higgins', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Mr Brian J Higgins,  
Assistant National Director  
Change Planning and Delivery – Disability and Mental Health Services**

