



**Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,**  
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,  
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

**Office of the Head of Operations,**  
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5<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: 20464/22**

*To ask the Minister for Health the average cost of transferring one person with a disability under the age of 65 years living in a nursing home to a person-centred home in the community; the budget that has been allocated to transfer 63 persons with a disability under the age of 65 years living in a nursing home to a person-centred home in the community as contained within the HSE Service Plan 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

**PQ: 20265/22**

*To ask the Minister for Health the number of disabled persons under the age of 65 years in each of the past five years to be transferred from a nursing home to a person-centred home in the community; the budget allocated in each of the past five years to transfer disabled persons under the age of 65 years living in a nursing home to a person-centred home in the community; the final amount spent in each of the past five years to transfer disabled persons under the age of 65 years living in nursing homes to a person-centred home in the community in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

**PQ: 20266/22**

*To ask the Minister for Health the average capital cost in each of the past five years of delivering a supported living home in the community for the transfer of disabled persons under the age of 65 years from a nursing home in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

**PQ: 20267/22**

*To ask the Minister for Health the average staffing cost in each of the past five years of delivering a supported living home in the community for the transfer of disabled persons under the age of 65 years from a nursing home in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

**PQ: 20268/22**

*To ask the Minister for Health the average operating non-staffing cost in each of the past five years of delivering a supported living home in the community for the transfer of disabled persons under the age of 65 years from a nursing home in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*



## **PQ: 20469/22**

*To ask the Minister for Health the number of disabled persons under the age of 65 years who to date remain living in a nursing home; the number of disabled persons under the age of 65 years living in a nursing home who were transferred in each of the past five years to a person centred home in the community; the number of disabled persons under the age of 65 years who died while living in a nursing home in each of the past five years in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

### **HSE Response**

To support people aged under 65 living in nursing homes to move to homes of their choosing in the community, the HSE is working in collaboration with service providers, the person and their families, where this is the wish of the person. As each individual's situation and circumstances are unique to them, a person by person approach is being taken. Supports and costs are based on each individual's needs. Work has been ongoing in the HSE to address nursing home care of people under 65 who wish to live elsewhere.

The HSE established a dedicated funding stream as part of the HSE National Service Plan (NSP 2021) to enable 18 people, with an investment of €3m, under the age of 65yrs to transition to their own home with support. This initiative is in line with the Programme for Government and the UNCRPD, as well as Time to Move On Policy and the Ombudsman's Report into the placement of persons under 65 years of age in nursing homes.

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 2021 and a summary report will be compiled at that stage to inform further developments in this area. A budget of €3 million was secured for this, which equates to approximately €166,000 per person for direct care support hours. This project is being delivered by the nine Community Healthcare Areas (CHOs) and each Area is working within this budget. There was no additional funding for capital or project overhead costs included.

Most recent data shows that 14 people aged under 65 living in nursing homes were supported to move to homes of their choosing in the community in 2021, with work on-going for 4 more individuals to move as part of this funding initiative.

The NSP 2021 also provides for implementation of the Neuro-Rehabilitation Strategy which will utilise the Sláintecare 2020 care redesign fund in the development of neuro-rehabilitation teams starting with Community Healthcare Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow (CHO7) and Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation (CHO8). This includes the development of 10 specialist inpatient beds.

The HSE has also secured €300,000 from the Service Reform Fund for a two phase project. Phase one is underway to develop a database of the population under 65years of age in Nursing Homes in line with the recommendation of the Ombudsman report. In phase two, work will focus on mapping the care pathway to enable younger people in Nursing Homes to transition to the community which eventually can be rolled out as appropriate across the country.

The National Service Plan for 2022 sets out the objective to support 63 people with disabilities (<65yrs) inappropriately placed in nursing homes to transition to more appropriate placements in the community and progress implementation of the recommendations of the Ombudsman Report in line with the HSE Action Plan, including working with acute services to plan with people to prevent inappropriate discharges to nursing homes.

The funding allocation in 2022 is €5.5m in 2022 (4 months monies), increasing to €16.8m in 2023. Each CHO has been advised of their allocation in 2022 for 7 individuals per CHO who are inappropriately placed in nursing to move to more appropriate living arrangements in line with their will and preference. The cost per place is €259.70k per full year 2023.



Prior to 2021, the HSE did not receive any specific funding allocation to support disabled persons under the age of 65 years to be transferred from a nursing home to a person-centred home in the community. In this context, data was not collated on this matter.

The Nursing Homes Support Scheme Office collates data in respect of people in Nursing Homes under the Nursing Home Support scheme and has provided us with information that there are currently 1, 295 people under 65 in Nursing Homes. However important caveats regarding this information are:

- This information does not establish the number of people under 65 years of age in Nursing homes who have disabilities.
- This information does not include people in Nursing Homes under 65 years of age in Nursing Homes who are not in receipt of the Nursing Home Support Scheme.

The Nursing Homes Support Scheme Office has also provided us with information in the table below. The caveats mentioned above also apply to this information.

Year of Death	Number of Clients in Nursing Homes who died under 65 years of age
2017	130
2018	159
2019	141
2020	140
2021	152

### ***Service Reform Fund Project***

As mentioned above, the HSE has appointed a Project Lead under the Service Reform Fund to undertake a mapping exercise of the current population to establish a database of people under the age of 65 in nursing homes. This will support identification of those inappropriately placed, to enable a determination of the supports required. This project is funded up to mid-2022.

A key outcome of NSP 2021 & 2022 and the SRF project will be to gather and collate information 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.

Measures to prevent young persons from entering nursing homes will continue to be provided through the use of support services such as respite, home support and personal assistance services.

### ***Implementation Steering Committee***

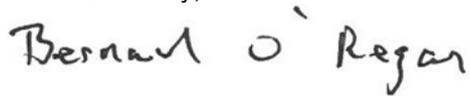
The HSE established an Integrated Steering Group, chaired by the Chief Operations officer, with membership drawn from Acute, Older Persons, Disability and Primary Care, along with Clinical Leads and a number of people with lived experience. A number of work streams are being established to progress specific elements of work. These work streams will include membership comprising membership from the sector with the relevant expertise and people with lived experience.



In addition, a reference Group has been established, comprising membership from the Community and Voluntary Sector, HSE staff and people with lived experience to provide support to the mapping exercise. This includes a focus on the development of a database and the development of a range of communications for use with relevant residents in nursing homes.

The work of the ISC will oversee the implementation of the recommendations set out in the Ombudsman's report and provide a level of assurance regarding the health, safety and dignity of residents, aged under 65 years, living in residential care settings and ensure the efficient transition to alternative care settings where appropriate.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernard O'Regan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small loop at the end of the last name.

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

