

5<sup>th</sup> January, 2023

Mr Michael Moynihan, TD.,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ ref 61023/22**

**"To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide a report on the provision of disability respite services in CHO4 to date in 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter."**

Dear Deputy Moynihan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

**Children's Respite Services Kerry:** There is a process in place for children to access overnight respite services as well as outreach supports via the Children's Respite Forum. An application form is completed and processed via the HSE Kerry Adult Respite Forum. The form is completed primarily by the Social Workers on the Children Network Disability Teams (CDNTs) in consultation with families. This forum manages the delivery of both residential respite and outreach services to adults with a disability that meet the criteria of the Standard Operating Procedure of Cork Kerry Disability Services. This allows Kerry Disability Services to provide a coordinated approach to service delivery in collaboration with service providers in Kerry. Membership of the forum includes HSE Disability Services and representatives from relevant disability agencies and CDNTs.

In Kerry, overnight respite services for children under 18 years of age with an intellectual disability is delivered by St. John of God Service (SJOG) at two children's respite houses namely, The Arches in Killorglin (South Kerry) and Abhaile Respite in Listowel (North Kerry). It is provided to them until they reach 18 years, once deemed appropriate. Once the young adult turns 18 years, they may then access HSE Disability Services Adult Respite.

Abhaile Overnight Respite Service operates 7 days a week Monday to Sunday and every second week for children under 18 years. There is a historic arrangement in place where 4 adults that attend SJOG Day Services at Ashfield avail of overnight respite every second weekend.

The Arches Overnight Respite Service Capacity at Abhaile operates 7 days a week Monday to Sunday and provides overnight respite to children under 18 years.

**Adult Respite Services Kerry:** The Adult Respite Forum is in place for adults to access overnight respite services as well as outreach supports. An application form is completed and processed via the HSE Kerry Adult Respite Forum. This forum was established in Kerry in 2020 and manages the delivery of both residential respite and outreach services to adults with a disability that meet the criteria of the Standard Operating Procedure of Cork Kerry Disability Services. This allows Kerry Disability Services to provide a coordinated approach to service delivery in collaboration with service providers in Kerry. Membership of the forum includes HSE Disability Services and representatives from relevant disability agencies. Overnight respite services for adults with an intellectual disability are provided at Cois na Feile Respite House in Kilmorna, Listowel. This service is managed by Kerry Parents & Friends.

Adult overnight respite services are provided for adults over 18 years with an intellectual disability in Kerry at Cois na Feile, Kilmorna, Listowel, Co. Kerry. Kerry Parents & Friends Association is the service provider and there are 4 adult respite beds in Cois Na Feile, Listowel (Regional Respite House). KPFA also have one respite

bed in Brooke Lodge, Listowel, one respite bed in Tearmann Lodge in Rathmore and one respite bed in Glebe Lodge in Castleisland which are in place historically and for adults attending KPFA services.

At present, HSE Disability Services Kerry do not have an overnight respite service in the Killarney/Mid Kerry region. CKCH Disability Services Kerry fully appreciates the level of stress that families are experiencing due to the limited overnight respite services within the county. CKCH Disability Services will continue to identify and highlight the needs for overnight respite services in the South Kerry region.

**Childrens Respite Services Cork:** A Regional Children's Respite Forum was established in 2022. The Forum Committee manages referrals and respite service provision in the Cork area. The overall purpose of the Committee is that children up to the age of 18 years with a disability, who are in receipt of services from a CDNT in Cork Kerry Community Healthcare (CKCH) would be eligible to apply for respite and/or home support services. The Forum is still in its infancy however applications are in process and reviewed, assessed and approved based on agreed access criteria; appropriate referral pathway to the committee; assessment based on level of need and the most appropriate provision for each child and thereafter on the basis of capacity and availability of service.

In Cork overnight respite services for children under 18 years of age with an intellectual disability, physical disability or autism is delivered by a range of organisations namely, Cope Foundation, Enable Ireland, St. Josephs Foundation, CoAction and the Brothers of Charity. There are a total of 27 beds however, 10 of the beds are suppressed or suspended due to staffing shortages. There is also a number of sessions of day respite provided to children which consists of a centre based day and outreach services for children.

**Adult Respite Service Cork:** A Regional Adults Respite Forum for Adults is in place and process applications and allocates respite to adults.

In Cork overnight respite services are provided for adults over 18 years with intellectual disability, physical disability or autism is delivered by a range of organisations namely , Cope Foundation, Enable Ireland, St. Josephs Foundation, CoAction, Abode, Praxis Care, Rehabcare and the Brothers of Charity. There are a total of 39 beds, however, 1 bed is weekends only and 6 beds are suppressed or suspended due to staffing shortages. There are recruitment plans in place to address staffing issues which are a significant issue currently.

Garretstown regional respite centre opened in early 2022 in Garretstown, Co. Cork with 5 beds. Services are provided by Brothers of Charity (BOC) and provides overnight respite capacity to 78 people and respite is accessed via the Regional Respite Forum.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely



**Ms. Majella Daly,  
Head of Disability Services,  
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**

