



**Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,**  
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,  
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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 37064/22**

*To ask the Minister for Health the number of respite hours and respite houses required to meet unmet need as per the disability capacity review; the number outstanding required by 2032; the estimated cost of same; the wholetime equivalent staffing requirement of same; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

**HSE Response**

The HSE welcomes the publication of the Department of Health's "*Disability Capacity Review to 2032 A Review of Disability Social Care Demand and Capacity Requirements up to 2032*".

The HSE has worked collaboratively with the Government in undertaking the Capacity Review of the Disability Sector to provide the framework within which services could develop over the coming decade.

The capacity review emphasises the importance of a planned approach to meeting current and future requirements and the critical need for a multi-annual current and capital funding programme to secure effective and timely delivery, at the most reasonable cost. The HSE strongly welcomes this recommendation and agrees that detailed forward planning underpinned by multi-annual investment is required to ensure that services become available where and when they are needed.

The capacity review provides detailed evidence of the extent of demographic and unmet need and provides detailed estimates of service and expenditure requirements for:

- residential care
- adult day services
- personal assistance and home support
- multidisciplinary therapies
- respite, and other community services and supports.

The Review accepts that significant investment across all health services over the period up to 2032 is required in tandem with a fundamental programme of reform. The HSE welcomes the work being



done, lead by the Department of Health but involving other relevant Government Departments, to develop a comprehensive Action Plan to develop services on a “whole of Government” basis to meet current and future needs for disabled children and adults.

**Priority Areas for Action Service Plan 2022 – Disability Services**

In 2022, Disability Services has been allocated c. €2.3 billion to provide a range of services throughout the country and is spent in line with nationally agreed policy for disability services, whilst at the same time endeavouring to maximise value. Services include Residential and Respite Services, Day Services, PA and Home Support Services, and Therapeutic Supports.

Respite has a key role in supporting family carers and a child or adult with a disability. It is defined as planned or emergency temporary care for persons with disabilities and their carers in order to provide a short break from everyday life situation thereby enhancing their quality of life.

Respite Services is one of the key priority areas for action in disability services provision as per the 2022 Service Plan which aims to deliver as follows:

- Establish three additional specialist centre-based services to provide 4,032 nights to 90 children, one to be Prader-Willi appropriate and the other two to provide high-support respite for children and young adults with complex support needs, in addition to seven further respite services which will provide 9,408 nights to 245 children and adults in a full year
- Provide 53 additional intensive respite support packages to children and young adults

Funding allocated to respite services represents about 3% of total funding each year.

In regard to the number of respite hours and respite houses required to meet unmet need as per the disability capacity review and the number outstanding required by 2032, as respite services are based on each individual’s (child or adult) specific requirements, care needs and unique circumstances, combined with the various models of respite care provided, it is difficult to be specific.

2022 estimates indicate that it would cost approximately €609,000 in annual revenue funding to develop a planned Respite Service, which would support approximately 50 individuals and provide approximately 500-600 bed nights in a full year. This figure takes into account the difference between cost per week-night and weekend, where 24 hr cover and weekend premium payments applies. The week-night cost assumes that the service user attends a day-service/school. This figure also allows for the fact that day services will be closed for 4-weeks per calendar year and additional hours for respite over “holiday-time”, which would be a peak time for respite usage is included.

**2022 approximate estimates regarding staffing on the basis of a 2:2 staffed respite house:**

Cost per Week-night: €1,420.87 (User attends day service)  
 Cost per Weekend (Sat & Sun) €9,152.63

This would total to total running cost per year of €609k approx.

For more intensive support arrangements:

	Staffing 3:3	Staffing 4:4
Cost per Week-night:	€1,746.10	€2,412.46
Cost per Weekend:	€11,247.65	€15,540.02

Additional once-off capital funding would be necessary to purchase/construct/refurbish/equip a suitable premises.



## Capital Costs

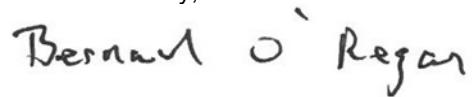
HSE Capital & Estates informs that the process of developing an 'estimated all-in capital cost' for any capital projects is dependent on having an understanding of a number of important factors all of which will influence the potential range of costs. Consideration as to the size, scale and scope, if the project is to be new build or refurbishment, the site specific requirements vis-à-vis enabling / decant works which may be required, site specific statutory obligations, the extent of infection prevention and control measures, and the scope of ancillary upgrade and refurbishment works necessary are all critical factors in being able to determine an appropriate order of magnitude cost.

In the absence of this 'site by site' specific information, we can assume that on a cost per bed basis, a cost range in the order of €400k to €550k may be considered reasonable.

Due to the ongoing Housing Crisis, CHOs are finding it increasingly difficult to obtain houses. However, in order to still meet needed respite hours, CHOs are targeting alternative models of respite provision such as:

- extended days
- extended weekends
- in-home overnight respite

Yours sincerely,



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