

10<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Catherine Connolly, T.D.  
Dáil Éireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**Ref: PQ ref 29482/22 – Respite Waiting Lists.**

Dear Deputy Connolly,

I refer to PQ ref 29482/22 uploaded on the PAD System on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022 due for response on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022, regarding number of persons currently on waiting lists for respite in Galway city and county; the number of these who have been waiting 0 to 6, 6 to 12, 12 to 18 and 18 to 24 months, 2 to 3 years and more than 4 years. The HSE has been requested to reply directly to you on this matter. The following response outlines the position.

Respite ceased following a national decision in March 2020 when the Covid Pandemic commenced. All respite was cancelled and IPC requirements meant respite could not continue to be provided in some units post pandemic, waiting lists were not maintained. Requests for respite must be screened to ensure they meet the threshold for respite and that the Residential facility can meet their needs. Respite is prioritised based on need and date of application from the clinical practitioner since the beginning of 2022.

There are 2 respite beds in Clifden and there will be 13 in Merlin Park when all staffing are recruited; 6 are currently open.

All the Merlin Park beds have been allocated until end of July 2022. Applications are being triaged for August and will be allocated in due course. There is some limited availability in Clifden.

The Carer's Support Grant is paid to carer's once a year by the Department of Social Protection. This grant can be used by a carer to pay for respite care or access to Respite services within a private Nursing Home.

I trust that this response has clarified the matter that you have raised in this instance.

Yours sincerely,



---

Siobhan O'Sullivan  
Head of Service  
Older Peoples Service  
Community Healthcare West