

16<sup>th</sup> March, 2022

Mr Jim O'Callaghan, TD.  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ ref 11888/22**

**“To ask the Minister for Health when the shortage of dedicated residential places in the catchment area in County Kerry will be resolved; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”**

Dear Deputy O'Callaghan,

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.

There is a formal process for the allocation of residential services within Cork Kerry Community Healthcare. In the first instance, in order for an adult to be considered for a Residential placement within Cork Kerry Community Healthcare, the person needs to meet the criteria for access to HSE Disability Services. Cork Kerry Community Healthcare provides Disability Services to people with disabilities living in Kerry whose needs exceed the capacity of mainstream services who reside in Cork and Kerry. All services are provided by agencies external to the Disability Services Office and are principally for those who have:

- a) A moderate, severe or profound intellectual disability as defined by a global impairment of skills arising during the developmental period which has resulted in a significant impairment of intellectual, adaptive and social functioning. This does not include impairment caused by the early onset or effect of chronic mental illness or dementia. The IQ is measured by psychometric assessment. Due consideration will also be given to the level of adaptive functioning where there is a diagnosis of a Disability.
- b) Who have Severe Autism
- c) Complex Physical and Sensory Disability
- d) Acquired Brain Injury (ABI)

All requests for a residential placement are recorded and managed through a system called the Disability Support Application Management Tool (DSAMT), which serves to ensure that the application process is equitable and transparent. The information provided in the DSAMT is recorded on a Cork Kerry Database identifying the need for a residential placement.

There is a large waiting number of persons with an intellectual Disability in Cork & Kerry for those requiring a residential placement. Unfortunately the level of government funding received in Cork and Kerry Community Healthcare in recent years has not enabled service providers to meet all of the needs presenting. This deficit reflects the growing population of people with disabilities, longer life expectancy and more complex needs presenting, along with the lack of structured investment in residential and home supports over a number of

years.

These deficits are clearly outlined in the Disability Capacity Review to 2032 - A Review of Social Care Demand and Capacity Requirements to 2032. I await increases in funding for the capacity requirements outlined and Disability Services. Cork Kerry Community Healthcare will engage with partner agencies to deliver on additional capacity once funding is approved.

Under the National Service plan 2022, we have received revenue funding for an additional four residential placements and we are currently developing a plan to deliver on this target in 2022.

I trust this clarifies the situation for you.

Yours sincerely,



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

