



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

Office of the Head of Operations,
Disability Services/Social Care Division,
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22nd November 2022

Deputy Darren O'Rourke,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: darren.orourke@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy O'Rourke,

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: 54330/22

To ask the Minister for Health if there are specific financial supports available to private parties to adapt premises to make buildings suitable to provide respite services for adults with disabilities; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

The HSE and its funded Agencies provide respite care to children and adults with disabilities. Respite can occur in a variety of settings for various lengths of time, depending on the needs of the individual service user and their family or carer, and according to available resources. Respite is not always centre-based and can be provided in a number of ways, e.g. Centre based; In-Home; Home-to-Home; Family Support, etc. As a vital part of the continuum of services for families, respite potentially helps prevent out-of-home full-time residential placements, preserves the family unit, and supports family stability.

The HSE is very much aware of the importance of respite service provision for the families of both children and adults with disabilities and the impact the absence of respite service provision can have on other services being delivered. Respite care provided is dependent on what inputs are required to meet the assessed needs of the individual, the environment and other available supports that may be available to that person.

In Disability Services, 80% of all service provision including respite services is through non-statutory service providers. Our relationship and engagement with these Providers, including Private Providers, is through the HSE's Governance Framework and the Service Arrangements Process.

The HSE strives to meet all respite care needs and as a result private providers are engaged to deliver services through this Governance Framework.

The Governance Framework enables the HSE to contractually underpin the grant-funding provided. All funding arrangements with non-statutory agencies, including private organisations, are formalised by complying with this Governance Framework which has 2 different components:



- Part 1 - A Service Arrangement that is signed every 1 to 3 years by both parties and sets out the legal requirements that the agency must comply with to receive funding for the provision of services.
- Part 2 – A Set of 10 Schedules which must be completed and signed by the Agency and the HSE which sets out the detail of the service and the exact funding that the HSE is providing for the delivery of this service. This Set of Schedules also identifies the quality standards and best practice guidelines to be adhered to in the provision all services, along with process for managing complaints in relation to service provision.

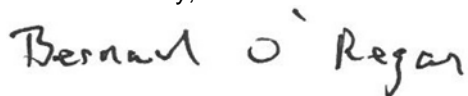
The HSE is statutorily obliged to ensure that providers are accountable for the services they provide. The framework was introduced to implement the legislative provisions of the Health Act, 2004 and to reflect the requirements for public accountability where the HSE is legally obliged to account for all public expenditure on health and personal social services.

The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) has set the way in which residential/respite services are provided, requiring the Agencies to comply with regulatory standards in order to meet regulation. Services must be delivered in line with the National Standards for Residential Services for Children and Adults with Disabilities and all associated regulations and standards. Designated Centres are registered, following successful inspection, by the Health Information and Quality Authority.

Many providers have undertaken significant remedial works to their residential and respite centres in order to achieve compliance with the regulations. Particular issues have arisen in relation to fire safety, privacy and dignity and accessibility. The HSE has invested over €68 million to support residential/ respite services, including community locations to achieve HIQA compliance.

While Private – For Profit Providers are in receipt of significant funding from the HSE for the provision of disability services, including residential and respite services, these organisations are not funded for capital expenditure by the HSE.

Yours sincerely,



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

