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4th November 2022

Deputy Shortall
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ 48638/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of private or for-profit housing providers that have service-level agreements with the HSE in 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

-Róisín Shortall

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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

Residential services make up the largest part of the Disability funding disbursed by the HSE – over 60% of the total budget of €2.3 billion in 2022. Overall, approximately 90 service providers provide residential services to over 8,000 individuals throughout the country.

The bulk of residential places in disability services are provided by Section 38 and Section 39 organisations) – approximately 78%.

The HSE itself provides approximately 13% of the places. While 9% of residential places are provided by Private-for-Profit agencies.

Information obtained from the Service Provider Governance (SPG) system indicates that the HSE Community Healthcare Areas (CHOs) have approximately 83 separate Service Arrangements with approximately 12 Private for Profit organisations for the provision of residential disability services to service users.

Services are 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 inspected and subsequently registered, following successful inspection, undertaken by Health Information and Quality Authority.

Governance Arrangements Organisations

The HSE works in partnership with organisations including Section 38, Section 39, Out of State and For-Profit organisations to ensure the best level of service possible is provided to people with a disability, and their families, within the available resources.

The HSE acknowledges the role and contribution of non-statutory agencies in the development and provision of health and personal social services and is committed to the development of effective working relationships as enacted by the Health Act 2004.


The HSE has a formal and robust Governance Framework in place that enable the HSE to contractually underpin the grant-funding provided. All funding arrangements with non-statutory agencies which include private for profit 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 service arrangement between the HSE and a provider is an important contractual document that sets out the funding provided by the state to deliver services. The HSE is statutorily obliged to ensure that providers are accountable for the services they provide.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



Yvonne O'Neill
National Director
Community Operations