



11th May 2023

Deputy Patricia Ryan TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Ryan,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) 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 19652/23

To ask the Minister for Health if plans for extra respite beds are being made; and if so, the number of beds to be delivered, in tabular form.

Respite care is recognised as an important component of a devised package of measures that support service users with particular care needs to remain living quality lives in their own home and communities.

Publicly managed residential units currently consist of different categories of beds such as:

- Respite
- Dementia specific respite
- Convalescence
- Transitional care beds
- Rehabilitation beds

These beds can be interchangeable for use in response to particular demands in Residential Care units at any given time, thus the total number of respite beds in any one month can fluctuate up and down.

To ascertain future demand for services such as respite care, ongoing analysis is being carried out in relation to population trends and demand modelling. This will guide a future residential framework model of care and support planning to meet local needs.

While this process is being undertaken and where there are currently identified gaps in this service the HSE has secured resources from privately managed facilities.

Yours sincerely,

Martina Duffy
General Manager
Long Term Care & Integration