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**22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023**

Deputy Ivana Bacik  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Bacik,

**PQ Ref 8471/23: To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons currently awaiting a care plan in each month since January 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter**

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.

I have contacted the National operations office for Disability, Older Persons & Mental Health Services in order to ascertain the information you have requested above.

Each office has confirmed that it is not possible to provide this data as it is not centrally collected and would require significant time and human resources within each of the CHOs to gather this information. We would be required to contact each approved centre/facility/hospital/community health team across the country in an attempt to try and ascertain/confirm if every service user in receipt of a service has a care plan in place. This would involve a manual review of all patient files and doing a manual count which is not feasible.

I have provided some information below which may be of some interest to you;

### **Disability & Older Persons**

The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) is the statutory body established under the Health Act 2007 with responsibility for setting standards for health and social care services, and ensuring that the standards are being met. The Authority is responsible for the registration and inspection of 'designated centres' for older people and people with disabilities, as defined in the Health Act 200, which aims to promote progressive improvements in quality and safety of residential services provided to children and adults who use services on either a long-term or short-term basis.

HIQA's Disability inspection teams are legally responsible for the monitoring, inspection and registration of designated centres for adults and children with a disability and older people. All residential centres are

inspected against the National Standards and Health Regulations including the preparation of care plans for the residents of designated centres.

As per HIQA “Each resident in a designated centre for older people or people with disabilities is required to have a care plan in place which outlines their needs and how they are being met.” From an Older Persons perspective under the regulations of the Health Act (2007) the person in charge of a designated centre shall prepare a care plan for a resident no later than 48 hours after admission.

### **Mental Health Services**

The Mental Health Act 2001, (Approved Centres) Regulation 2006, Regulation 15, Individual Care Plan, requires that “each resident has an individual care plan”. “Each service user has an individual care and treatment plan that describes the levels of support and treatment required in line with his/her needs and is co-ordinated by a designated member of the multi-disciplinary team, i.e. a key-worker”.

In order to be compliant, every resident must have a care plan in place, and care plan is assessed against nine separate criteria (ten for children). During the course of an inspection, a sample of individual care plans is reviewed. Failure to meet just one of the nine criteria for compliance (ten for children), in one care plan, will result in a rating of non-compliance on inspection.

Only if each of the above criteria is fulfilled for each resident’s individual care plan and for each service user, then the mental health service provider will be fully compliant with Regulation 15 of the Mental Health Act 2001, (Approved Centres) Regulations 2006.

Further information is here: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/individual-care-plans/>

I trust this information is of assistance to you.



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Yvonne O’Neill,  
National Director,  
Community Operations