



**Leas Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta: Pleanáil Athraithe agus Seachadadh
Seirbhísí Míchumais agus Meabhairshláint**

**Assistant National Director: Change Planning and Delivery,
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19th July 2023

Deputy Patricia Ryan,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: patricia.ryan@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Ryan,

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: 34719/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if he can offer an explanation for the 75% failure to meet set targets for movement of those with disabilities in congregated residential care settings to community based settings; what measures Government will take to bring Ireland into line with the UN convention on the rights of people with disabilities; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

The Time To Move On policy is supporting people to progress from campus based/ institutional settings to community based homes with support. One of the notable long-term implications of de-congregation, is that it demonstrates ongoing commitment and meaningful actions in relation to UNCRPD.

In the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities General comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, it is noted that to achieve implementation at the national level, *“States parties may face challenges at the national level when implementing the right to living independently and being included in the community”*.

The report goes on to outline 14 steps that States should adopt to ensure the full implementation of article 19 of the Convention, a number of which are dependent on the ongoing implementation of the Time To Move on policy and deinstitutionalisation of the congregated settings.

The on-going commitment of the HSE to the vision of *“Time to Move on”* has been fundamental in bringing about meaningful and sustainable change for approximately 2,400 individuals since the programme began and is enabling these individuals to live ordinary lives in ordinary places in the community.



Initially, a target was set for transitioning 4,099 residents to the community by 2019, and this deadline was subsequently moved to the end of 2021.

As of the end of 2022, the figures indicated there were just under 1600 individuals still living in congregated settings. In 2023, to date, 25 individuals have moved out of congregated settings and the HSE remains committed to the Decongregation programme.

Over the last two years, the significantly increased demands on the housing market and an inability to procure contractors and builders in a timely manner, has an impact on progress in meeting set targets.

The HSE continues to work closely with partners in local authorities and the voluntary sector to explore a range of transition options for the remaining individuals other than the standard 4 bedded new builds.

In 2022, the HSE allocated funding to each CHO area to recruit staff specifically to work on the programme so as to increase the potential of increased targets over the coming years.

It is envisaged that the recently launched National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022 – 2027 will further assist the HSE to secure housing and supports for all those remaining in congregated settings.

Yours Sincerely,



**Mr Brian J Higgins,
Assistant National Director,
Change Planning and Delivery,
Disability and Mental Health Services**

