



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

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11<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Deputy Roisin Shortall,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
E-mail: [roisin.shortall@oireachtas.ie](mailto:roisin.shortall@oireachtas.ie)

Dear Deputy Shortall,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary questions, which were submitted to this department for response.

**PQ 31282/23**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of residential services for people with disabilities provided by each voluntary NGO provider; the location of each centre; the costs of this provision per centre for the years 2021 and 2022; the bed placement capacity of each centre in 2021 and 2022; the average occupancy level for each centre in 2021 and 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

**PQ 31283/23**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of residential services for people with disabilities provided by each private for-profit provider; the location of each centre; the costs of this provision per centre for the years 2021 and 2022; the bed placement capacity of each centre in 2021 and 2022; the average occupancy level for each centre in 2021 and 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

**PQ 31284/23**

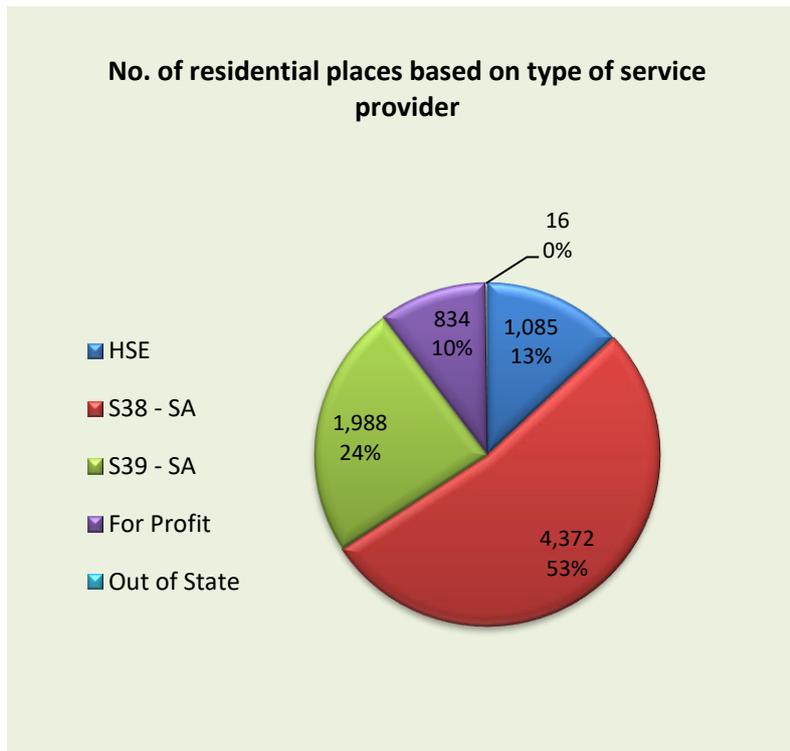
*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of residential services for people with disabilities provided directly by the State; the location of each centre; the costs of this provision per centre for the years 2021 and 2022; the bed placement capacity of each centre in 2021 and 2022; the average occupancy level for each centre in 2021 and 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

**HSE Response**

Residential services make up the largest part of the Disability funding disbursed by the HSE – over 60% of the total budget – and approximately 90 service providers provide residential services to over 8,000 individuals throughout the country. The bulk of these are provided by the 50 highest funded agencies (comprising both Section 38 & Section 39 organisations) – some 6,360 places, or 77%. The HSE itself



provides 1,085 or 13% of the places. While 834 places or 10% are provided by Private-for-Profit agencies. Please see the Pie Chart below depicting this information.



The HSE developed a Residential Capacity Database to capture the number of residential placements / contract capacity per the service arrangement between the nine CHO areas and the service provider agencies. The end of April 2023 position indicates that there were 8,296 residential places for people with a disability. A number of new emergency residential places have been added to the residential base, which results in a capacity increase. However, it should also be noted that Residential Capacity will also reduce during the year as a result of the loss of places in congregated settings due to deaths, which cannot be re-utilised. This is in keeping with Government policy, which is to move away from institutionalised settings (i.e. Time to Move On from Congregate Settings) where the State is actively implementing a policy that will have a bed reduction impact. In addition, “in-year” capacity (bed) levels will also be impacted negatively as a result of regulatory requirements; that is, where an inspection outcome leads to capacity being reduced.

The table below shows the number of residential places available at end of December 2020, 2021, 2022 and end of April 2023 broken down by CHO Area.

CHO	Residential Places Available December 2020	Residential Places Available December 2021	Residential Places Available December 2022	Residential Places Available April 2023
CHO 1	709	694	695	698
CHO 2	847	864	900	860
CHO 3	819	827	802	808
CHO 4	1,072	1,071	1,114	1,113
CHO 5	886	903	914	913
CHO 6	568	541	545	546
CHO 7	1,106	1,126	1,144	1,175
CHO 8	879	904	916	926
CHO 9	1,253	1,216	1,253	1,257
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,139</b>	<b>8,146</b>	<b>8,283</b>	<b>8,296</b>



## **The number of residential places for people with disabilities provided by each Provider**

The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) publishes a list of the Disability Residential Centres. This contains the address of each centre. This is available at

<https://www.hiqa.ie/areas-we-work/disability-services>

The HIQA Disability Services Residential Centres list shows that there are 1,504 disability residential centres. These centres are located throughout all Community Healthcare Areas (CHOs). Residents of some Private Providers may have a home address in a different CHO area from the CHO location of the centre.

The HSE does not collate information on each Residential Centre.

However, an analysis of the HIQA list informs that the HSE is the Registered Provider for 160 centres, S38 organisations are the Registered Providers for 730 centres, S39 organisations are the Registered Providers for 402 centres, approximately and Private for Profit organisations are the Registered Providers for 212 centres, approximately.

CHO 1 (Donegal, Cavan, Monaghan, Sligo and Leitrim) has the highest number (60%) of HSE run Residential Centres. This percentage is significantly lower in other CHO areas.

The placement capacity for the centres varies from one to 36 places.

Further analysis provides the following information:

The number of centres providing one place is 96.  
The number of centres providing 4 places is 331.  
The number of centres providing 6 places is 175.  
The number of centres providing 10 places is 49.  
The number of centres providing 36 places is 1.

Please note that some centres may consist of several houses. It is also important to note that the centres may be offering respite services or residential services or both.

The average occupancy levels for each centre is not collated.

While each Provider will strive to provide maximum occupancy of each centre, occupancy levels are contingent on many varying factors and influences including any applicable infection control measures that may have to be taken at any time, maintenance and upgrades of each premises, fire safety requirements and commensurate upgrades being undertaken, changing resident care needs and requirements and any related adaptations/alterations required to the centre, resident behaviours and compatibility issues, difficulties filling rosters and ensuring adequate staffing levels are maintained.

The HSE would estimate that the average annual running cost (revenue cost) of a new 4-bed residential centre is in the range of €770k to €1.2 million approximately depending on level of service user complexity - albeit certain highly complex needs placements may exceed this. It is not possible to disaggregate the average cost of existing residential provision by section 38 or 39 providers, as payment is made directly by the HSE to the agency for an overall quantum of services that may include residential, as well as respite, day services, home support and clinical services.

The HSE acknowledges that demographic challenges associated with the increase in the number of people living with a disability, the increase in age and life expectancy and the changing needs of people with a disability have all led to the need for increased residential facilities. In this regard, the HSE continues to work with agencies to explore various ways of responding to this need in line with the budget available. The HSE also engages with the Department of Health during the Estimates process to highlight the growing need for residential places for people with a disability and to emphasise the need for additional funding to meet this need.

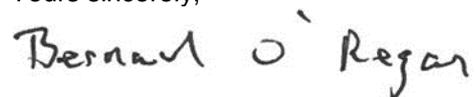


### ***Future Planning***

The demand for full-time residential placements within designated centres is extremely high and is reflective of the absence of multi-year development funding that has not been in place since 2007/2008. The Department of Health's 2021 Disability Capacity Review has projected a need for a minimum of an additional 1,900 residential places by 2032 under a minimum projection and an extra 3,900 in order to return to levels of provision prior to the beginning of the 2008 recession.

However, it is important to state that the needs of people with a disability extend well beyond health service provision, and the health service participates fully with other Government departments and services in the development of cross-sectoral strategies to maximise access to services and supports for people with disabilities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernard O'Regan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

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