



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

Office of the Head of Operations,
Disability Services/Social Care Division,
31-33 Catherine Street, Limerick.

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19th September 2023

Deputy Michael Moynihan,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: michael.moynihan@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Moynihan,

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: 39436/23

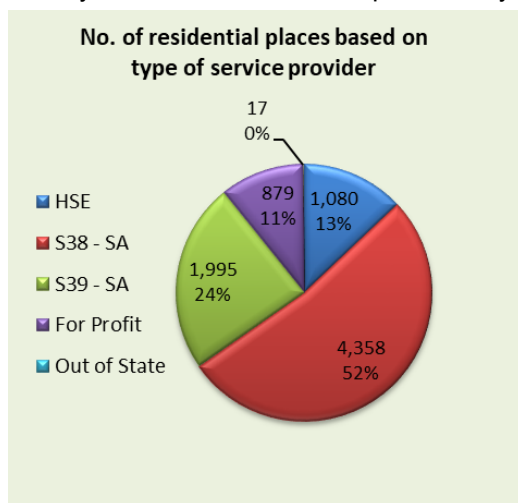
To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of residential places for people with a disability currently being provided as of 1 September 2023 or latest date available; and if he would provide a tabular breakdown by CHO area of same.

PQ: 39441/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of new emergency places provided to people with a disability as of 1 September 2023; and if he would provide a tabular breakdown by local health office area of same.

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 6,353 places, or 76%. The HSE itself provides 1,080 or 13% of the places. While 879 places or 11% are provided by Private-for-Profit agencies.



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 July 2023 position indicates that there were 8,330 residential places for people with a disability – 150 places are occupied by children, which constitutes about 2% of the total. 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 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 table below shows the number of residential places available at end of July 2023, broken down by CHO Area. This is the latest data available.

CHO Area	Residential Places Available end July 2023
CHO 1	691
CHO 2	868
CHO 3	800
CHO 4	1,124
CHO 5	910
CHO 6	552
CHO 7	1,185
CHO 8	937
CHO 9	1,263
Grand Total	8,330

Emergency Placements

The table below shows the number of new emergency residential placements provided to end of **July 2023**, broken down by CHO Area.

CHO Area	New Emergency Residential Placements end July 2023
1	4
2	8
3	13
4	10
5	4
6	8
7	16
8	14
9	7
Total	84

In accordance with the NSP 2023, the HSE has been allocated funding to provide a range of residential supports including as follows:

- Provide 43 additional residential places in response to current need (*At end of July 2023, 84 new emergency residential places were developed*).
- Support 18 delayed transfers of care in line with the Winter Plan (*27 people received new residential places with 3 further receiving home care packages*).
- Provide 23 residential care packages to young people ageing out of Tusla services in line with the Joint Protocol.



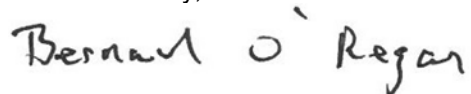
- Consider a sustainable funding model for residential services, incorporating the early learning from the pilot project commenced in Community Healthcare West in 2022, the work of the National Placement Improvement Programme and the Disability Supports Management Application Tool.

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. In the shorter term, the forthcoming Disability Action Plan proposes 150 extra places in 2024, 300 in 2025, 450 in 2026

Yours Sincerely,



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

