



22nd September 2023

Ms. Verona Murphy TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 39468/23

To ask the Minister for Health the current total number of respite beds available in County Wexford; how many of the respite beds are allocated to older person services; how many of the respite beds are allocated to disability services; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 39469/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the total number of persons across all services awaiting respite service in County Wexford; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Murphy,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which were submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have reviewed the matter and the following Composite Response outlines the current position.

Update from Disability Services

The following table outlines the current total number of respite beds available in County Wexford:

Service Provider	No. of Respite Beds
Reachability	5
Ard Aoibhinn	8
St. Aidan's Services	7
Total	20

One of the above is an unplanned admission bed and is only filled in consultation with Disability Services to meet unplanned need.

Ard Aoibhinn is open four nights a week for children and six nights a week for adults. Reachability is open three nights per week.

Respite Services may not run at full capacity due to client need, assessed risks and compatibility issues at any given time.



South East Community Healthcare delivers a wide range of disability services including respite to children and adults residing in the South East. As part of this service provision, South East Community Healthcare are committed to ensuring an equitable and fair approach to service delivery in line with budget allocation. This includes the annual delivery of disability services and the planning of services into the future.

Respite may occur in a variety of settings for any length of time, depending on the needs of the individual, their family and available resources. It is not always centre-based and may be provided in number of ways, e.g. Out-of-Home; In-Home; Home Support; seasonal camps, Saturday clubs and Family Support et cetera. This is dependent on client need and services available within current resources.

Currently there are 28 clients who have been through the assessment process and are awaiting respite. A further 31 clients have been referred and are going through assessment or awaiting discussion at the allocation forum.

Update from Older Person Services

In the Wexford area, the total number of respite beds available for Older People in HSE Community Nursing Units are as follow:

Unit Name	Location	Number of beds
Gorey District Hospital	Gorey	5
St John's Hospital	Enniscorthy	2 (1 is Dementia specific)
New Houghton	New Ross	4
	TOTAL	11

There is no current waiting list, when referrals for respite are received, they are assessed, confirmed and allocated to dates requested where possible.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Fitzgerald
A/Head of Service – Disability Services
South East Community Healthcare

Helen McDaid,
Head of Service – Older Person Services
South East Community Healthcare