



Oifig an Stiúirthóir Cúnta Náisiúnta,
Foireann Míchumais Náisiúnta,
An Chéad Urlár - Oifigí 13, 14, 15,
Áras Phlásóg na Rós, Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,
Páirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta,
Caladh an Treoigh,
Luimneach.

Office of the Assistant National Director,
National Disability Team,
First Floor- Offices 13, 14, 15,
Roselawn House, University Business Complex,
National Technology Park,
Castletroy,
Limerick.

2nd July 2024

Deputy Marian Harkin,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: marian.harkin@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Harkin,

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: 28042/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of additional residential places and new emergency residential places for people with a disability in each of the years 2020 to 2024, in tabular form; 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 – almost 60% of the total budget – and approximately 90 service providers provide residential services to 8,472 individuals throughout the country. The bulk of these are provided by the 50 highest funded agencies (comprising both Section 38 & Section 39 organisations) – some 6,356 places, or 75%. The HSE itself provides 1,069 or 13% of the places. While 1,029 places or 12% 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.

Please see the table below which provides information on the number of residential places at the end of December each year up to the end of May 2024.

Year	December 2020	December 2021	December 2022	December 2023	End of May 2024
Residential places	8,139	8,146	8,282	8,400	8,472



Priority 1 (Emergency) Residential Places	86	91	103	160	63
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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.

Disability Support Application Management Tool (DSMAT)

HSE Disability Services has introduced a system called the Disability Support Application Management Tool (DSMAT), which provides a list and detailed profiles of people (Adults & Children) who need additional funded supports in each CHO.

DSMAT captures detailed information on home and family circumstances and a detailed presentation profile of the individuals. This enables Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) areas to record and manage requests for support and to ensure that the application process is equitable and transparent.

It is important to note that in the absence of a statutory, legislative framework providing entitlement to services, the DSMAT is not a chronological waiting list. Rather, it is a support to the CHO area to feed into its decision making process around prioritisation of services, subject to budgetary constraints.

This means that services are allocated on the basis of greatest presenting need and associated risk factors.

Please see tables below- National Aggregation for 2019 to 2023.

The figures below represent a "point in time" analysis and may not include applications received in to the CHO but not yet processed onto the DSMAT tool.

Residential Services

Total Applicants New Residential Service	2019	2020	2021	2022	Mid. Yr. 2023	End of Q1 2024
	776	1033	1158	1205	1296	1,414

Applications for Non Residential Services

Total Applicants: Personal Assistance and Home Support Services and Day Respite Services	Mid. Yr. 2019	Mid. Yr. 2020	Mid. Yr. 2021	Mid. Yr. 2022	Mid. Yr. 2023	End of Q1 2024
	1117	1619	1903	2142	2492	2,181

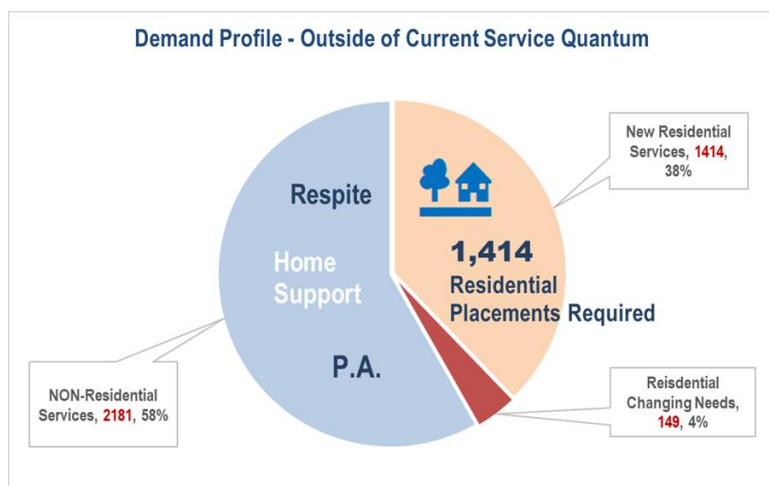
The pie chart below, provides an overview of the demand for services – outside of current service quantum.

Just to note that 149 applications are linked to applications on behalf of existing persons in residential services in which there is significant changing need due to ageing, mental health, behavioural presentation etc., and there is a required need for additional funded supports on a recurring basis within the designated centres.

Such requirement for additional resource is also frequently an outcome of regulatory escalation by the HIQA Disability Inspectorate.



Demand Summary – Q1, 2024



Emergency Residential Placements

In previous years, funding has been allocated in the National Service Plan to provide for additional new emergency residential placements, as follows:

- The HSE responded to 474 “emergency places/cases” between 2014 and 2016.
- NSP 2017 made provision for 185 new emergency residential placements
- Between 2018 and 2020, the HSE developed a total of 252 new emergency places across the 9 CHOs.
- In accordance with the NSP 2021, 91 new emergency residential places were developed; a further 25 planned residential places also opened in 2021; 4 adult transfers to Tusla also took place. A further 19 people aged under 65 living in nursing homes were supported to move to homes of their choosing in the community, during the year.
- In accordance with the NSP 2022, the HSE developed 103 new emergency residential places together with 11 Planned Residential places and 18 new intensive support packages and 19 new supported living packages. The CHO Areas indicated that 22 people transitioned from Nursing Homes to homes of their choosing in the community and 32 packages to support adults ageing out of Tusla services were put in place.
- In accordance with the NSP 2023, the HSE has been allocated funding to provide 43 additional residential places in response to current need. In addition, in line with the Winter Plan, 27 people received new residential places with 3 further receiving home care packages. A further 25 residential care packages were developed for young people ageing out of Tusla services in line with the Joint Protocol. At end of 2023, 160 Priority 1 (Emergency) Residential Places were developed. This is significantly in excess of the NSP target of 43 places based on funding allocation and reflects the increased demand for residential services throughout the country and the need to respond to changing/ unmet service user need (Including clinical/ safeguarding risks).
- In the National Service Plan 2024, the HSE will provide in the region of an additional 100 Priority 1 residential placements for immediate occupation.

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.



Action Plan for Disability Services 2023-2026

The Action Plan for Disability Services 2024-2026, sets out a three year programme designed to tackle the deficits highlighted in the *Disability Capacity Review to 2032*, which identified the demand for specialist community-based disability services arising from demographic change, and considerable levels of unmet need.

Specifically, the Disability Capacity Review 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. Moreover, the central projection of the Capacity Review suggests that adults with intellectual disabilities requiring specialist services will increase by a sixth between 2018 and 2032, with fastest growth for young adults (up a third by 2032) and over 55s (up a quarter). These projections include an average of approximately 90 new residential places that will be needed each year from 2020 to 2032 to accommodate changes in the size and age structure of the disability population.

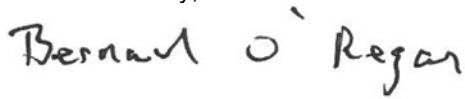
The Action Plan is designed to provide additional funding for developments that will help build capacity within services, so that the benefits of these funding increases will be felt directly by the service user. This will also help the HSE in dealing with some of the key cost-drivers in service delivery, such as high-cost emergency residential placements, giving greater flexibility and control when planning services.

The headline service improvements which are planned over the 2024-26 period are:

Residential

- Around 900 additional residential care places to tackle unmet needs and ensure supply keeps pace with demographic change;
- 500 new community-based residential care places to replace disability care in large institutional and campus-based settings, with a view to ending that form of provision by 2030;
- Continued expansion of respite services, including alternative residential options

Yours Sincerely,



Bernard O'Regan
Assistant National Director
National Disability Team

