



Oifig an Stiúirthóir Cúnta Náisiúnta,
Foireann Míchumais Náisiúnta,
An Chéad Uirlár - Oifigí 13, 14, 15,
Àras 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.

12th July 2024

Deputy David Cullinane,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: david.cullinane@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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: 30716/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the annualised all-in current cost of a residential service place.

PQ: 30717/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the capital cost of a new residential service place.

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.

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.

Costs

The cost of any particular project is directly related to the scale and scope of said project. In addition, the cost varies depending on the requirements and needs of people availing of support in each location. The design and build and/or purchase and refurbishment of a building that meets all regulatory requirements, is also market dependent.

In the absence of specific details, it is not possible to provide a cost for any particular project, however approximately we can say:

Design and Build and/or Purchase and Refurbishment of minimum 4 bedroom residence with ancillary requirements per Health and Safety requirements and HIQA registration:– indicative estimate €670k to €980k per facility:

With regard to the annualised all-in current cost of a residential service, it is not possible to calculate, through our existing systems, the current cost of a residential service. The cost of residential services would form part of the core budgets for the service providers, some of whom provide services across day/residential/respite/assisted living etc.

In overall terms, €15.5m has been allocated across all CHOs in 2024 for full year cost for approximately 100 Priority 1 residential placements. The full-year cost in 2025 of the 2024 monies is 31 million.

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 option

Yours Sincerely,

Bernard O'Regan

Bernard O'Regan
Assistant National Director
National Disability Team

