



**Ceannasai na Seirbhísi Curam
Michumais - Lár na Tíre**

FSS Bhaile Átha Cliath agus Lár na Tíre

Ionad Sláinte, An Mhí Bóthar Ard, An
Tulaigh Mhóir, Co. Uíbh Fhailí. R35 HP73

**General Manager of Disability Services –
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HSE Dublin and Midlands

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3rd June 2025

Mr. Tony McCormack T.D.
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re: PQ ref 20767/25

“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if she will provide an update on the provision of residential disability services in County Offaly, particularly in relation to capacity issues, waiting lists, and the availability of appropriate placements for children and young adults with complex needs; and if she will make a statement on the matter”

Dear Deputy McCormack,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above representation. I have examined the matter and I outline the position as follows.

The HSE provides disability services to children with complex needs. These services include community respite, overnight respite and the support from the Children’s Disability Network Team (CDNT). A child with complex disability needs will be known and registered with a local CDNT which will be actively engaged in supporting the child and family using a family centred approach through interdisciplinary team working in addressing areas of need. They will jointly work where appropriate with external services such as CAMHS/ CAMHS ID/ Tusla as needed.

HSE Disability Services does not maintain a waiting list for children’s residential services. The CDNT will always prioritise ‘a child and family centred approach’ supporting the child remain within the family unit, while exploring and exhausting a range of complimentary respite supports suitable to the child and family. Regrettably, on occasions situations can occur within a family which result in an out-of-home placement being required. The decision to proceed with this residential placement is only made following a comprehensive assessment, intervention and evaluation of the child’s needs.

If an out of home placement is necessary the CDNT will progress to exploring potential providers for via a tender process.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely

Elaine Mulvihill
General Manager, Midlands Disability Services