



9th May 2025

Mr Barry Heneghan, TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Email: barry.heneghan@oireachtas.ie

PQ 20994/25 *“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if she will provide an update on the provision of respite services for children with disabilities in the Dublin Bay North constituency; the number of families availing of respite; and whether any increase in respite capacity is planned for 2025.” -*
Barry Heneghan, TD

Dear Deputy Heneghan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you with information in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted for response. I examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Please see below details regarding respite services available to children with disabilities across Integrated Health Area Dublin North County (IHA DNC) and Integrated Health Area Dublin North City and West (IHA DNCW):

Overnight respite service providers and geographic location of registered centres:

- Praxis, Garristown/Ashbourne area
- Talbot, Hamlet – Balbriggan area,
- Talbot, Swords area
- St Pauls – Santry area
- St Michael’s House, Donabate area
- Avista, – Navan Road area

After-school/Alternative respite

- Sanas, Finglas
- Sanas, Balbriggan
- St Paul’s, The Willows

There are 220 children availing of overnight respite and 198 children availing of alternate afterschool respite within IHA DNC and IHA DNCW. HSE Disability Services has recently approved increased staffing for one respite house which may support up to 2 additional children per night.

The availability of beds is not always guaranteed in respite centres, due to the varying needs of individual service users and in line with Health and Safety legislation and the Health Act 2007. In some circumstances, service users require single-occupancy respite with higher staffing levels, which limits capacity.

Respite funded by HSE IHA DNC and IHA DNCW Disability Services is for children with complex needs arising from a disability. These children are typically linked with a Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT). Families who require respite support may contact their CDNT, who may assist them in considering a referral for respite services.

I trust this information clarifies this matter for you.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Olive Hanley
Head of Service for Disability
Covering Integrated Health Areas of Dublin North County and Dublin North City & West