

9th May 2025

Mr. Liam Quaide, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 21031/25

“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of high-support disability residential placements available in County Cork in 2023, 2024 and to date in 2025, in tabular form.”

Dear Deputy Quaide,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth for response.

HSE South West Disability Services Adult Regional Residential Forum was established to ensure equity of access to, and provision of funded residential placements for adults residing in Cork and Kerry. The purpose of the forum is to ensure that existing and emerging residential vacancies are identified and that referrals to the available places are made on the basis of assessed need. The forum is chaired by HSE South West Disability Services and the membership comprises of Disability Services staff and service providers, which are funded to provide residential placements in Cork and Kerry.

All requests for a residential placement are recorded and managed through the forum and cases are referred to the forum for assessment of suitability. A system called the Disability Support Application Management Tool (DSAMT) is used and serves to ensure that the application process is equitable and transparent.

The prioritisation of assessed clinical needs, the complexity of cases, and the support needs of applicants, as well as the existing residents and the funding available inform decision making on allocations. With this position in mind, it is not always possible to map a definitive timeframe for allocation of a placement to a particular individual at any given time. There are approximately 600 people awaiting/requiring residential services in Cork and Kerry at present. Due to the higher demand for disability residential beds compared to the available supply.

HSE Specialist Disability Services must prioritise placements based on the severity of a person's disability and their assessed level of need. Individuals with moderate or severe intellectual disabilities are given priority for residential placements, as their needs are more complex and require comprehensive support. Conversely, those with mild intellectual disabilities are best supported within the community through drop-in supports and other community-based services. This prioritisation ensures that resources are allocated equitably and transparently, addressing the most critical cases first.

No. of Residential places for people with a disability including new planned places per Key Performance Indicator data (DIS108).		
Activity (year to date)		
2023	2024	2025
1136 residential places	1160 residential places	1166 residential places

It is regrettable that the demand for residential placements in Cork and Kerry exceeds capacity. Funding to further develop services has not been allocated and as a result, expanding the number of residential placements in Cork and Kerry has not been possible. HSE South West Disability Services recognise the impact this has on people and their families. Should funding be allocated HSE South West Disability Services will work with service providers to expand the number of residential placements in Cork and Kerry. It is important to note that HSE South West receive extremely limited funding annually to provide additional residential capacity and do not provide multi-annual funding to develop capacity in the not for profit sector.

HSE South West note the reference to the exploration of multi-annual funding for the sector in the Programme for Government and will work with the Minister, the Department, the not for profit service providers in Cork and Kerry to develop a robust plan to meet the current and emerging need should a multi-annual funding stream be provided.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Lorraine Egan,
Head of Disability Services,
HSE South West.

