



General Manager of Children's
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HSE Carlow Kilkenny and
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8th May 2025

Mr. Peter Cleere TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 21609/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of children currently awaiting respite with Enable Ireland in Kilkenny and Carlow at present.

PQ 21611/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the average waiting time for children awaiting respite with Enable Ireland in Kilkenny and Carlow at present.

PQ 21612/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if plans are in place to reduce the waiting time families are experiencing for respite services with Enable Ireland in Kilkenny and Carlow at present.

Dear Deputy Cleere,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have reviewed the matter and the following composite reply is the current position.

There are currently 82 Children awaiting Respite with Enable Ireland in Carlow/Kilkenny. The average waiting time is four to six years depending on date of referral.

The following plans are in place to reduce the waiting time families are experiencing for respite services with Enable Ireland Carlow/Kilkenny at present:

- There are currently 60 children accessing the service, when a child reaches their 18th birthday they are discharged. This vacancy will be filled with a child on the waiting list.
- The Respite Manager plans and manages all discharges and intakes on yearly basis to ensure that there are no unfilled vacancies.
- The Allocations Committee (HSE and Enable staff) who have oversight of the Respite Service meet every quarter to review discharges referrals and existing caseloads to ensure equity transparency and confirm that all vacancies are filled.
- Carlow/Kilkenny Children's Respite is funded to operate for 4/5 nights per week which is delivered within the resources available. Operating the Respite House across seven nights would increase capacity however this would require additional resourcing.



I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Maeve Cleary
General Manager – Children’s Disability Services
IHA Carlow Kilkenny/Tipperary South
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