



Oifig na Bainisteoir Limistéir Chomhtháite
Cúraim Sláinte Chorcaí Thuaidh agus
Thoir.

FSS Iardheiscirt, Áras na Ceachan, Páirc
Ghnó agus Teicneolaíochta, Bóthar na Modh
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29th July 2025

Mr. Thomas Gould., T.D.,

Dáil Éireann,

Dublin 2

PQ ref 38865/25

“To ask the Minister for Health the funding provided for children's and adults respite in Cork respectively in each of the years 2019 to date by year in tabular form.”

Dear Deputy Gould,

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 Health for response.

Disability Services

The HSE and its funded agencies provide respite care for children and adults with disabilities. Respite can occur in a variety of settings for various lengths of time, depending on the needs of the individual service user and their family or carer, and according to available resources.

Table 1: HSE South West Funding for Respite Services in Cork and Kerry

Year	Children	Adult
2024	€5.8m	€6.6m
2023	€5.1m	€4.8m
2022	€4.4m	€4.6m
2021	€4.1m	€3.8m
2020	€4.1m	€3.2m
2019	€4m	€2.4m

**Funding amounts based on Service Arrangement documentation - residential respite and centre-based day-respite services.*

The 2025 respite funding allocation is currently being finalised in collaboration with the relevant agencies. It is anticipated that the total funding figure for respite services in Cork will be confirmed and available by October 2025.

HSE South West Disability Service is acutely aware of the demand for respite services and on receipt of very welcome funding, has significantly invested in respite services in recent years. HSE South West Disability Service continues to invest in respite services, proactively seek alternative respite models and utilise all available funding to provide respite services for all children and adults who require them. HSE South West Disability Service is working with service providers to create new residential and alternative respite supports for children and adults in 2025 and welcomes any additional funding to continue to invest in these vital services.



Older Persons

Respite care for older adults (over 65s) is usually a pre-planned short admission of one or two week's duration and dependent on the needs of the carers. Access to a respite bed can be arranged by an individual's Public Health Nurse/Community Nurse and is dependent on bed availability. The Public Health Nursing service manages the schedule for respite beds and will, where a cancellation arises, offer available beds so that optimal use is made of the available capacity.

Residential respite care for older persons may be provided in the community in HSE residential care settings, by agreement with voluntary organisations or by contracted private facilities. The provision of residential respite services for older persons has come under increasing pressure in recent years due to a number of factors, including an increase in the number of people who are seeking access to respite as a result of general population increase; increasing levels of complexity across the sector due to better and improved health care and the impacts of regulatory standards and national policy on capacity.

The below table sets out the funding provided for **respite for older persons** in Cork and Kerry from 2019 to the present date, in tabular form – note that in order to meet the deadline for this response, we can currently only provide an overall figure for both counties as significant time would be required to split the figures by county:

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	2025 (January to June) €m
	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	
Funding provided for Older Persons respite in Cork and Kerry - includes emergency grants and payments to external providers.	3.3	3.1	3.5	3.3	3.9	4.9	2.7

**Note – increase in funding between 2023 and 2024 is due to the fact that respite bed number in Cobh Community Hospital increased from 3 to 16 beds in 2024.*

The HSE is committed to maximising all available supports and continuously reviews services in line with population health planning and Sláintecare principles, to ensure the ongoing development of modern services, including respite provision, for older people in the Cork region.

Yours sincerely,

Sonya Cotter

Integrated Healthcare Area Manager Cork North and East

HSE South West Health Region