



29th July 2025

Deputy Thomas Gould,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 39114/25

“To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality to outline the total number of respite hours provided to families in Cork over each of the past 12 months; the total number that has been provided each month since March 2021, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter.”

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 Children, Disability and Equality for response.

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

HSE South West Disability Services is acutely aware of the demand for respite services for people with disabilities and, on receipt of very welcome funding, has significantly invested in respite services in recent years. South West Disability Services 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. We are working with service providers to create new residential and alternative respite supports for children and adults and welcome any additional funding to continue to invest in these vital services.

HSE South West Disability Services National Key Performance Indicators for Respite Services:

The HSE gathers activity data on a quarterly basis for respite services in Cork and Kerry. This information is submitted by service providers who deliver respite services on behalf of the HSE.



2025 data reported below includes Quarter 1 figures. Quarter 2 data (April - June) will be available from mid- August 2025.

Table 1: KPI Data January 2021 to March 2025 - Number of Overnights of Respite for persons with Intellectual Disability (ID)/ Autism or Physical & Sensory Disability (P&SD) in Cork.

| Overnight Respite | Jan - Mar | Apr - June | May - Sept | Oct - Dec | Total |
|-------------------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|--------|
| 2021 | 1,454 | 1,973 | 2,552 | 2,211 | 8,190 |
| 2022 | 2,221 | 2,804 | 2,706 | 2,854 | 10,585 |
| 2023 | 3,295 | 3,624 | 3,925 | 2,651 | 13,495 |
| 2024 | 3,709 | 3,495 | 3,732 | 3,248 | 14,184 |
| 2025 | 3,322 | | | | 3,322 |

Table 2: KPI Data January 2021 to March 2025 - Number of Day Only Sessions for persons with Intellectual Disability (ID)/ Autism or Physical & Sensory Disability (P&SD) in Cork.

| Day Respite | Jan - Mar | Apr - June | May - Sept | Oct - Dec | Total |
|-------------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|-------|
| 2021 | 232 | 194 | 228 | 436 | 1,090 |
| 2022 | 247 | 333 | 246 | 227 | 1,053 |
| 2023 | 208 | 430 | 385 | 295 | 1,318 |
| 2024 | 312 | 362 | 935 | 776 | 2,385 |
| 2025 | 998 | | | | 998 |

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

Yours sincerely,

**Ms. Angela O'Neill,
Head of Disability Services,
HSE South West.**