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11th August, 2025.

Mr. Pa Daly, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 43095/25

"To ask the Minister for Health the percentage of carers in County Kerry that avail of the maximum length of respite care when caring for older persons; and if she will make a statement on the matter."

Dear Deputy Daly,

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.

Please find below a summary of the respite care services available in the Kerry region, managed by the Public Health Nursing (PHN) Department within each local Health Network.

Respite Bed Availability

Respite care is provided across several community and nursing facilities, with a total of 11 beds available for approximately 42 weeks per year:

- Listowel Community Hospital – 2 beds
- Dingle Community Hospital – 2 beds
- St. Columbanus Home, Killarney – 2 beds
- Kenmare Nursing Home – 2 beds
- St. Joseph's Home, Killorglin – 1 bed
- Caherciveen Community Hospital – 2 beds

Please note that respite services are not scheduled during hospital surge periods (e.g., post-Christmas, Easter) or during outbreaks of transmissible illnesses such as COVID-19 or C. difficile.

Booking and Scheduling

Respite is a planned service designed to provide carers with a temporary break from their caregiving role. It must be booked in advance through the area PHN. Due to limited availability:

- Requests are prioritized based on assessed need
- Clients are informed of their allocated dates, with the understanding that availability may change
- Efforts are made to accommodate date changes and cancellations, and any vacated beds are offered to individuals on the waiting list

Emergency Respite

Emergency respite may be approved when a carer is unexpectedly unable to provide care, and hospital admission would otherwise be necessary. Once sanctioned:

- Families are provided with a list of nursing homes and must secure a bed for the required dates

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- A grant of €635 is typically provided to cover up to two weeks of care

Please note that respite care is not intended as hospital step-down or convalescent care.

Number of people who availed of planned Respite in 2024	Number of people who availed of Emergency Respite in 2024	Number of beds available for planned Respite in Kerry	Number of people who availed of Planned Respite in 2025	Number of people who availed of Emergency Respite in 2025
291	19	Dingle: 2 St. Columbanus: 2 Kenmare: 2 St. Joseph's: 3 Caherviceen: 2	207	8

PHN Contact Information

Respite bookings are coordinated through the local PHN. Contact details are as follows:

- Network 1 – North Kerry: 068 56100 | Castleisland: 066 9153420
- Network 2 – Tralee & Dingle: 066 7104800
- Network 3 – Killorglin: 066 9761276 | Killarney: 064 6670766

If you have any questions or require assistance with booking respite care, please do not hesitate to contact your local PHN office.

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