



Ceannasai na Seirbhísi Curam
Michumais - Lár na Tíre

FSS Bhaile Átha Cliath agus Lár na Tíre

Ionad Sláinte, An Mhí Bóthar Ard, An
Tulaigh Mhóir, Co. Uíbh Fhailí. R35 HP73

General Manager of Disability Services –
Midlands

HSE Dublin and Midlands

Health Centre, Arden Road, Tullamore, Co
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4th July, 2025

Mr William Aird T.D.,
Nutgrove
Abbeyleix Road
Portlaoise
Co. Laois
R32 X827.

Re: PQ ref 30642/25

“To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the current capacity of respite care for children with disabilities in County Laois; the number of children provided with respite care each week; her plans to increase capacity;

Dear Deputy Aird,

I refer to your recent correspondence referenced above and outline below the current capacity of respite care for children with disabilities in Laois and Offaly; the number of children provided with respite care and plans to increase capacity in respite services in Laois and Offaly.

HSE Laois/Offaly Disability Services offer respite supports to children across the two (2) counties and as such information provided is representative of the overall service provision and capacity. In addition, services are offered on differing frequency depending on the model of service, I have therefore outlined the frequency per model of service as not all are provided on a weekly basis.

Service	Service Description	Number of children availing of service	Frequency
Residential Respite	Overnight Respite	39 children	Monthly
Share A Break	Day and Overnight Respite	30 Children	Weekly
Kilbixy	Day time centre based respite	43 Children	Biweekly/Monthly
Community Respite/ Outreach	Day time respite	60 Children	Weekly

I can confirm that HSE Laois / Offaly Disability Team is actively working to increase the quantum of respite being provided to children. In this regard, I can confirm that in 2025

- an additional twenty-eight (28) children are being supported to attend Kilbixy centre based respite service (increasing the number of children attending from seventeen (17) to forty-five (45).
- an additional twenty (20) children have been offered community respite / outreach since January, 2025.
- an increase in respite services offered to children during the summer months to support families during school closures – sixty-two (62) children scheduled to receive day respite during July / August 2025.
- a new weekend and evening club model of respite has been developed which is due to commence in quarter 4 2025.
- an additional overnight respite service has been secured which will support up to fifteen (15) children access overnight access. This service is due to commence in July 2025.

I trust the above is in order and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries

Yours sincerely

Elaine Mulvihill
General Manager, Midlands Disability Services