



Oifig an Stiúrthóir Cúnta Náisiúnta,  
Foireann Míchumais Náisiúnta, An Chéad  
Urlár - Oifigí 13, 14, 15, Áras Phlásóg na Rós,  
Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile, Páirc  
Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta, Caladh an  
Treoigh, Luimneach

Office of the Assistant National  
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4<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Deputy Paul McAuliffe,  
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Dublin 2.  
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**PQ: 31988/25**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the number of residential places for people with a disability currently being provided as of 1 June 2025 or latest date available; and if she will provide a breakdown of same, by CHO area, in tabular form.*

**PQ: 31989/25**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the number of new emergency places provided to people with a disability as of 1 June 2025, by local health office area, in tabular form*

Dear Deputy McAuliffe,

Thank you for your Parliamentary Questions referenced above, which have been forwarded to me for direct reply.

Residential services make up the largest part of the Disability funding disbursed by the HSE – almost 60% of the total budget – and approximately 90 service providers provide residential services to 8,722 individuals throughout the country. The bulk of these are provided by the 50 highest funded agencies (comprising both Section 38 & Section 39 organisations) – some 6,371 places, or 73%. The HSE itself provides 1,058 or 12% of the places. While 1,271 places or 14% are provided by Private-for-Profit agencies.

Please see Table 1 below which provides a breakdown of residential places available and Priority 1 emergency places developed by the end of April 2025

**Residential Services**

**Table 1 – Residential and Priority 1 Emergency Places end April, 2025**

RHAs	Residential Places Available to end April 2025	Priority 1 Emergency Places Developed to end April 2025
HSE Dublin & Midlands	1,728	8
HSE Dublin & North East	2,007	16
HSE Dublin & South East	1,514	10
HSE Mid-West	842	6
HSE South West	1,167	9
HSE West & North West	1,464	9
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>8,722</b>	<b>58</b>



Data is collated and reported nationally by RHA (Regional Healthcare Area).

### **Future Planning**

The demand for full-time residential placements within designated centres is extremely high and is reflective of the absence of multi-year development funding that has not been in place since 2007/2008.

The Department of Health's 2021 Disability Capacity Review has projected a need for a minimum of an additional 1,900 residential places by 2032 under a minimum projection and an extra 3,900 in order to return to levels of provision prior to the beginning of the 2008 recession.

### **Action Plan for Disability Services 2023-2026**

The Action Plan for Disability Services 2024-2026, sets out a three year programme designed to tackle the deficits highlighted in the *Disability Capacity Review to 2032*, which identified the demand for specialist community-based disability services arising from demographic change, and considerable levels of unmet need.

Specifically, the Disability Capacity Review projected a need for a minimum of an additional 1,900 residential places by 2032 under a minimum projection and an extra 3,900 in order to return to levels of provision prior to the beginning of the 2008 recession. Moreover, the central projection of the Capacity Review suggests that adults with intellectual disabilities requiring specialist services will increase by a sixth between 2018 and 2032, with fastest growth for young adults (up a third by 2032) and over 55s (up a quarter). These projections include an average of approximately 90 new residential places that will be needed each year from 2020 to 2032 to accommodate changes in the size and age structure of the disability population.

The Action Plan is designed to provide additional funding for developments that will help build capacity within services, so that the benefits of these funding increases will be felt directly by the service user. This will also help the HSE in dealing with some of the key cost-drivers in service delivery, such as high-cost emergency residential placements, giving greater flexibility and control when planning services.

The headline service improvements which are planned over the 2024-26 period are:

#### Residential

- Around 900 additional residential care places to tackle unmet needs and ensure supply keeps pace with demographic change;
- 500 new community-based residential care places to replace disability care in large institutional and campus-based settings, with a view to ending that form of provision by 2030;
- Continued expansion of respite services, including alternative residential options

Yours Sincerely,

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Tom McGuirk,  
General Manager, Disability Services, Access & Integration