



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
Director, National Disability Team,
First Floor- Offices 13, 14, 15,
Roselawn House, University Business
Complex, National Technology Park,
Castletroy, Limerick.

4th July 2025

Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: david.cullinane@oireachtas.ie

PQ: 28594/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the cost of 100 disability residential care places.

PQ: 28604/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the annualised all-in current cost of a residential service place

PQ: 28605/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the capital cost of a new residential service place.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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.

A number of new Priority 1 residential places have been added to the residential base, which results in a capacity increase. However, it should also be noted that Residential Capacity will also reduce during the year as a result of the loss of places in congregated settings due to deaths, which cannot be re-utilised. This is in keeping with Government policy, which is to move away from institutionalised settings (i.e. Time to Move On from Congregate Settings) where the State is actively implementing a policy that will have a bed reduction impact. In addition, “in-year” capacity (bed) levels will also be impacted negatively as a result of regulatory requirements; that is, where an inspection outcome leads to capacity being reduced.

Costs

The cost of any particular project is directly related to the scale and scope of said project. In addition, the cost varies depending on the requirements and needs of people availing of support in each location. The design, build and/or purchase and refurbishment of a building that meets all regulatory requirements, is also market dependent.

In the absence of specific details, it is not possible to provide a cost for any particular project, however approximately we can say;



The Design and Build and/or Purchase and Refurbishment of a minimum 4-bedroom residence with ancillary requirements per Health and Safety requirements and HIQA registration currently has an indicative estimate of €670,000 to €980,000 per facility:

100 new places would require 25 X 4 bedroom residences. An estimate would be €16.7million to €24.5 million.

With regard to residential places, Disability residential care placements are provided in a variety of settings by a variety of providers; HSE, S38 and S39 organisations, and Private for Profit providers.

The cost of a residential care placement varies significantly depending on the needs of each individual service user, the needs of the other service users in the residential setting, the layout of the residential unit and the service hours provided as part of the residential care placement.

Based on YTD April 2025 data the annual all in current cost of a residential service place can vary from less than €100,000 to in excess of €1m, noting this is based on the cost of places that commenced year to date.

Therefore, the annual cost of additional 100 residential placements can vary between €10m and €100m, noting this is also based on the cost of places that commenced year to date.

The National Housing Strategy 2022 to 2027 places responsibility for the provision of housing with the Department of Housing and it is the responsibility of the HSE to provide additional supports related to care needs. The HSE and Local Authorities are required to work together to map the need and to develop plans for delivering housing to people with disabilities.

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 Priority 1 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 option

Yours Sincerely,

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