



Ceann Seirbhíse, Míchumais
FFS Baile Átha Cliath agus Lár Tíre

Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás,
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3 November 2025

Catherine Ardagh TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Ref: PQ 56849/25

Re: Respite Hours

"To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality to provide a breakdown of the total number of respite hours currently available to children with disabilities in the CHO7 area; the types of respite provided (e.g. in-home, after-school, Saturday, residential, or emergency respite); the number of children currently availing of respite services and those on the waiting list for each category, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter."

- **Catherine Ardagh**

Dear Deputy Ardagh,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Questions which has been referred by the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth to the Health Service Executive for direct response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The HSE and its funded Agencies provide respite care to children and adults with disabilities. Respite can occur in a variety of settings for various lengths of time, depending on the needs of the individual service user and their family or carer, and according to available resources. Respite is not always centre-based and can be provided in a number of ways.

There are a number of respite facilities aligned to Stewarts Care, St John of God's and Kare (Section 38 organisations) and the waitlists and allocation of respite is managed by the organisations.

Below is a breakdown of the total number of respite hours currently available to children with disabilities in the Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow (DSKWW); the types of respite

provided (e.g. in-home, after-school, Saturday, residential, or emergency respite); the number of children currently availing of respite services and those on the waiting list for each category

The total number of respite hours currently available to children with disabilities in the DSKWW:

- On average per month 562 bed nights are available for children (overnight respite). If centres ran at full occupancy this could be increased to over 600.
- 453 afterschool sessions per month available to children across Dublin & Kildare (on average 1 session per child per week)

The types of respite provided (e.g. in-home, after-school, Saturday, residential, or emergency respite):

- The respite provided is Afterschool and residential respite. Emergency respite is not available; there are several long stays in our respite centres as a result of emergency / crisis situations.

The number of children currently availing of respite services:

- 333 children receiving overnight respite. 110 children receiving afterschool respite.

Those on the waiting list for each category:

- Three children's respite centres have 38 children waitlisted across the 3 and 27 children are waitlisted for afterschool

A recent initiative developed is holiday camps and these are offered during school holiday breaks to provide day respite.

The HSE is working in conjunction with DCDE to develop a working paper to examine provision to date, demand, and challenges to inform future respite provision. This will include a HSE Audit of the capacity & provision of respite services across all Health Regions.

I trust this information is of use to you. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Hughes-Kazibwe,
**Acting Head Of Service,
Disability Services
HSE Dublin and Midlands**