



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.

22nd September 2025

Deputy Shónagh Ní Raghallaigh,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: shonagh.niraghallaigh@oireachtas.ie

PQ: 44847/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality for a breakdown of the average cost of an adult residential placement provided privately, by Section 38 and by Section 39 providers; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Ní Raghallaigh,

Thank you for your Parliamentary Question referenced above, which has 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 8,794 individuals throughout the country. The bulk of these are provided by the 50 highest funded agencies (comprising both Section 38 & Section 39 organisations) – some 6,376 places, or 73%. The HSE itself provides 1,077 or 12% of the places. While 1,318 places or 15% are provided by Private-for-Profit agencies. (Most recent data available - end of July 2025 data).

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

As mentioned above, 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 complexity of presentation and support needs of people in residential services vary significantly across placements and therefore it not possible to give a raw average cost by provider type, however, from an analysis of a significant part of the residential sector conducted by the HSE, the majority of residential services placements fall into cost averages ranging from €145k to €262k for 2024.

These costs include apportionment of head office management and administrative and other shared service costs within organisations.

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 options.

Yours Sincerely,

Gerry Tully
Assistant National Director, Adult Disability Services, Access & Integration