



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.

16th September 2025

Deputy Aidan Farrelly,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: aidan.farrelly@oireachtas.ie

PQ: 46009/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality for an estimate of the average annual cost of moving individuals from institutional, or congregated, settings to their own homes in the community with the support they need; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Farrelly,

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

The HSE Time To Move On policy is supporting people to progress from campus based/ institutional settings to community based homes with support. The on-going commitment of the HSE to the vision of “Time to Move on” has been fundamental in bringing about meaningful and sustainable change for approximately 2,500 individuals since the programme began and is enabling these individuals to live ordinary lives in ordinary places in the community.

Transforming Lives Time to Move on From Congregated Settings Subgroup – Location Review Group Report: Revised Register of Congregated Settings 2019 recommended periodic reviews of residential settings to ensure an accurate register is maintained and a review was carried out between July 2023 and March 2024 by way of site visits and data collection. This review not only enabled the HSE to confirm the number of individuals remaining in the HSE tracked settings it also assisted with prioritisation of the remaining settings for funding over the next 1 – 10 years.

The HSE continues to support individuals currently residing in congregated settings, to move into more appropriate community and residential settings. At the end of July 2025 there were 20 transitions; the target is to facilitate the movement of 21 people from congregated to community settings in 2025. We now have just under 1,300 individuals remaining in the HSE tracked congregated settings.

Work remains on-going to address the key challenges arising in relation to the procurement of appropriate housing in a buoyant housing market, the ongoing challenges recruiting staff across a range of disciplines and grades, and the undertaking of necessary works to ensure HIQA compliance – which must be secured before any new facility can become operational. It is important to acknowledge that due to varying reasons including personal health, medical reasons and end of life care, there continues to be a small number of admissions to congregated settings each year. It is equally important to acknowledge, as a result of an ageing population within Congregated Settings, that there continues to be a number of RIPs each year.

Costs

It is important to note that the cost of de-congregation varies in accordance with the support and care needs of each individual person.

In some instances, transitioning from a house on a campus (congregated setting) to houses in the community is cost neutral or minimal funding is required depending on the current set up on campus. In such cases, revenue funding and non pay budgets are currently in place and the staff will transition with the individuals.

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 and Build and/or Purchase and Refurbishment of a building that meets all regulatory requirements, is also market dependent.



As stated above, there are currently circa 1,300 individuals remaining in congregated settings as per the HSE definition in Time to Move on from Congregated Settings.

Decongregation usually brings some funding from the base in the congregated setting to the community in terms of staff who move. The NDA completed a report (Moving in Moving on) citing additional costs of circa 80,000 per person who had moved from congregated to community living.

On a gross basis 1,300 at 4 persons per house = 325 houses x €1 million (once off capital cost to acquire the houses) = €350,000,000 and €2 million running costs = €975,000,000 approximately.

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.

Yours Sincerely,

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