



23rd October 2025

Deputy John Paul O'Shea,
Leinster House,
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 50273/25

“To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the number of respite care facilities operated by the HSE or funded partners which are available to adults with disabilities in Cork and Kerry; the capacity of each centre, in tabular form; to confirm if these centres are operating at full capacity; the wait list for each centre; and if she will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy O' Shea,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to respond to your parliamentary question submitted to the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality.

HSE South West Disability Services provides funding to agencies to provide residential respite care for children and adults with disabilities.

HSE South West Disability Services operate separate Children and Adult Regional Respite Forums. Each forum manages the referrals and respite service provision for the population of the region. The overall purpose of each forum is to ensure equitable access to respite services, consistent with each person's assessed need and preference. Service provider representatives and HSE South West Disability Services personnel comprise membership of the Regional Respite Fora.

Residential respite services for adults in Cork and Kerry is delivered by Brothers of Charity, Horizons, CoAction, Enable Ireland, The Talbot Group, RehabCare, Praxis Care, Abode, The Orchard Group, Dovidá and Kerry Parents and Friends Association. It is important to note that not all overnight respite is delivered in designated respite centres, some adult overnight respite services



are delivered in residential settings with certain beds specifically allocated to respite services, therefore HSE South West Disability Services cannot provide a specific number of residential respite facilities.

Agency	Location	No. of Beds	Operating Service Over 7 days
Abode	Skehard Rd. Respite	1	7/7
Enable Ireland	Árd na Mara	6	6/7
The Talbot Group	Ballybrannagh	5	7/7
Praxis Care	Crobally / The Barn	6	7/7
Orchard Care	Duagh Respite Centre	4	7/7
Dovida	Cúnamh Iveragh	4	3/7
Kerry Parents and Friends Association	Respite Beds based in Residential Centres	7	
Brothers of Charity	Heather Park	7	6/7
Horizons	Respite Beds based in Residential Centres	18	
CoAction	Respite Beds	10	5/7
Rehab Care	Bantry Respite	4	5/7
Total		72	

The operational capacity of a residential respite centre is influenced by the complexity of the needs of the clients receiving respite at any given time. Groupings within the centres are determined based on both the compatibility of the clients and the level of support required, ensuring safe and appropriate delivery of care. Therefore the capacity of a residential respite facility can vary based on the needs of the clients attending at a given time.

There are currently 191 adults on the waiting list for overnight respite in Cork and Kerry. Clients are matched against the next most suitable bed as it arises so the list is not accessed in a strict chronological order. Disability Services does not keep a waiting list per provider/ facility.

HSE South West continues to work with service providers and families to develop additional respite services and continue to support as many people as



possible within the allocated quantum of funding available. On receipt of further funding HSE South West will develop further respite services to meet the needs and locations of all people who require respite support. HSE South West remain committed to ensuring that respite is available in the quantum and service type to meet the needs of all those who require respite.

I trust the above is in order but if I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick McEvoy,
AI Head of Disability Services,
HSE South West .