

Alan Shatter — IN LIVING



Anna May McHugh PAGE 6







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RTE's Sharon gets equal-pay promise but wants to quit 'Six One'

Niamh Horan EXCLUSIVE

TWO months after the gender pay gap furore, uncertainty still hangs over RTE on who will take over from Bryan Dobson when he moves to Morning Ireland on October 30.

Newscaster Sharon Ni Independent has learned that has received concrete assur- face of RTE News. ances on equal pay and status.

new line-up will share the bul-

It follows our revelation Both newscasters in the that the pay gap between made it known she would like the female co-anchor and Mr letin and there will be no lead Dobson controversially stood anchor. However, the Sunday at more than €80,000 a year. told the newspaper: "It's well position for over two decades, > See page 3

Bheolain has been asked to Ms Ni Bheolain is anxious to the future of Ms Ni Bheolain asking for a change." stav on the Six One News and move on after 23 years as the in the newscasting role on the Six One News.

> to move on. This weekend a source

Now questions remain over known that Sharon has been so naturally she is longing for

He said: "She has made it The news presenter has features and documentaries.

"She has been in the same

change."

So far no suitable candiknown she would prefer to date from RTE's news and remain behind the camera current affairs department for a while to concentrate on has agreed to take on Mr Dobson's role.

30 UNDER 30 IN BUSINESS

Next generation of entrepreneurs



Beating the Big tempting Apple



THE RETURN **OF DIGS** How to make money from your spare room

Property



EXCLUSIVE: FAIR DEAL INVESTIGATION — THE FEES IN FULL, PAGES 20-22

Nursing homes squeeze elderly for €17m 'extras'

Maeve Sheehan, Wayne O'Connor and Mark O'Regan

elderly residents €16.9m a additions. year in extra fees for activities on top of the millions in public money they are paid through the Fair Deal scheme, a Sunday Independent investigation reveals.

An undercover investigation into more than 330 prihomes found that more than two thirds of nursing homes

social activities and services. disclose their fees for various

The most detailed exami-

Our investigation follows months of controversy over the contentious extra charges imposed by nursing homes, at a time when the entire system for funding nursing home care is under review.

The nursing homes that vate and voluntary nursing charge the highest level of fees are concentrated in Dublin. The most expensive home, quoted additional charges that in terms of additional fees ranged from €1 a day in some charged, is Leeson Park in homes to as much as €325 Dublin 6, where service fees a week or €16,900 a year start at €125 a week for resin one upmarket facility in idents in a shared room, and €325 for a resident in a single A further third of nursing room. The nursing home, homes – most from outside operated by Silver Stream the city - said they did not Health Care Group, offers a charge additional fees for menu of additional services in its brochure that include such Ten nursing homes did not social activities such as bridge, choir and physiotherapy

nation yet of nursing homes sive is Kinvara House Nursdiscloses for the first time the ing Home in Bray, where the Continued on page 2

assessments.

scale of private and voluntary additional fee is €175 per operators who are quoting week. Several nursing homes additional charges, and how charge €100 a week in service much money they are esti- charges, including Mount mated to be making on these Hybla in West Dublin and

Altadore in South Dublin. Justin Moran of Age Action Ireland said: "We need to see a strong response from the Government. The figures show enormous variation between the figures charged in different parts of the country."

The Sunday Independent can also reveal that the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission is planning on drawing up new guidelines for prices for services charged by nursing homes.

In a statement the authority said the "project" will "examine standard term contracts in residential care services for older people. The purpose of the project is to develop a set of guidelines for providers of residential care services to older people and consumers of those services".

The guidelines will set out The second most expen- the obligations and respon-

SPARKLING HOLLY

GLISTENING: Holly Carpenter aims to shine in a new career as a jewellery designer. She tells Barry Egan how she got her mojo back in today's LIFE magazine. Photo: Kip Carroll

Worried about your **Heart?** Concerned about Cancer?

Early detection is vital...

Beacon Hospital is covered on 90% of all Private Health Insurance plans

Don't Wait. Get Screened.



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Varadkar proposes high-rise at Poolbeg to solve housing crisis

Jody Corcoran

living in city centre locations not "urban sprawl".

known as the Poolbeg Stacks.

Stephen's Green to Dublin Air- Dublin's Poolbeg."

the solution" to the housing beyond, Mr Varadkar writes day Independent, Mr Varadkar pect that a large part of the rise. Good design is key." suggests that high-rise quality solution lies in redeveloping apartments should be built at our cities for high-rise quality Dublin's iconic Poolbeg gen- apartment living, not further erating station, colloquially urban sprawl. We want vi- iour of the Poolbeg Stacks. No brant new neighbourhoods Mr Varadkar also comes all across the country, such out strongly in favour of as in Waterford's north quays, Dublin Metro to run from St Galway's inner harbour and

port and onwards to Swords. In an article in which he day Independent: "Poolbeg pass, and new roads to Derry, TAOISEACH Leo Varadkar outlines a 13-point vision for could have a Luas line also. has said that a "large part of Ireland in the next decade and It's in the National Transport Authority plan for Dublin. crisis is high-rise apartment of redeveloping the country's I've been to San Diego and main cities. He says: "We are Chicago, where there are great currently tackling a serious examples of how to mix older In an article in today's Sun- housing shortage, and I sus- neighbourhoods with high-

Mr Varadkar, who in his Twitter account biography, describes himself as the 'Savkidding', said that any such development should retain the Poolbeg Stacks, though the power station could be

converted. In his article, Mr Varadkar also says he will "encourage balanced regional development" so that cities like Cork, Waterford, Galway and Limerick can grow by 40 to 50pc and that rural Ireland also benefits.

'We will work on Dublin Metro, the Cork-Limerick Leo's vision, See page 26

Separately, he told the Sun-motorway, the Galway city by-Sligo and Mayo to transform the way people can travel in this country. In addition, we want Dart trains to pick up passengers from places like Leixlip, Drogheda and Clonsilla.'

The Taoiseach also says: "Next month, for the first time in 10 years, we will publish a Budget that will balance the books and reduce the national debt. This provides a secure foundation that allows us to be ambitious about the future and begin planning for the next 10 years.'

He adds: "Of course we are occupied with current issues and problems, but we also recognise that a longer perspective is needed if we are really to make progress as a country."





Fair Deal | Additional

€30

€29

€910

€1,010

THE TRUE COST OF NURSING

An investigation of over 300 nursing homes reveals additional charges of almost €17m. Maeve Sheehan. Wavne O'Connor and Mark O'Regan report



morning, a group of people gathered ing state-of-the-art nursing the form of service charges or home just off the M50, close to social charges, or whatever Rathfarnham in south Dublin. nursing homes want to call The rooms were bright and them. However, advocacy airy. The place was buzzing groups, such as Sage and Age with activity. A couple of Action Ireland, say the addiresidents read the in-house tional charges have had serinewspapers in the lobby. A ous reverberations on older group of ladies watched Sammy people and their families. Davis Jr on TV in the sitting room. In another room, an lighted several issues. Accordactivities coordinator read the ing to Age Action, the charges newspaper aloud to her audi- are "hidden", to the extent that ence. Outside, the sun shone residents were sometimes

ular nursing homes in South the dotted line of a contract. Dublin. There is a waiting list Families making enquiries about this nursing home must contain them. attend in person to one of The Marlay's designated informacharges, and encouraged to in October. ask questions.

addition, residents must nursing homes. pay €50 a week for a "social music, and arts and crafts; whether the resident is on a The purpose is to produce medical card or not. There is guidelines to ensure that nurstransporting samples to the pliant with EU consumer law. lab for screening tests. Residents pay extra for hairdress- our knowledge of additioning, therapies and their own al charges quoted by nurspersonal newspapers. There ing homes is which ones are is also a 20pc administration charging and by how much. charge for each resident on

'Hairdressing, therapies and newspapers cost extra'

a quibble about the charges ing. The Health Information and Quality Authority (Hiqa) has taken issue with aspects most recent inspection report on the nursing home.

Inspectors found there was no opt out for certain charges. The nursing home committed to introducing an opt out.

The Marlay provides a service that families are clearly happy to pay for. It is one of feature in today's investigation into the additional charges quoted by private and public nursing homes.

Our investigation found that of the over 300 homes, two thirds quoted additional charges that ranged from just €1 a day, to €325 per week in one luxury facility in Dublin. Just under one-third of the nursing homes we contacted said they did not have additional charges.

By taking a ratio of Fair Deal residents that applies across all private and voluntary nursing homes we were area: "All residents joining discussed openly and transable to calculate a figure of €16.9m a year in additional income for private and voluntary nursing homes that are and accommodation require- without a full explanation already sharing in a scheme that costs the State €940m a year. That €16.9m is paid by some of the 18,000 Fair Deal residents in private and voluntary nursing homes, and their families, on top of what they have already contributed through Fair Deal.

The charges are a symptom of deeper problems with the homes' grievances with the scheme are explained by Nursing Homes Ireland elsewhere

in these pages. their old age. Older people provide. contribute what they can af-

Na recent weekday ford. The State pays the rest. Nursing homes say they are not being paid enough. And for a tour of The elderly residents are being hit Marlay, a gleam- to make up the shortfall — in

These groups have highon a flower-filled courtyard. only told about them when This is one of the more pop- they were about to sign on

At least three agents of to get in. But don't expect to the State are now examining get information on The Mar- the additional charges and lay's charges over the phone. the contracts of private and voluntary nursing homes that

Documents released under the Freedom of Information tion days, organised to keep Act show that the Department any disruption to residents of Health set up a working to a minimum. At the end of group to look specifically at the tour, we are invited into a the issue of additional chargroom, given a brochure with es, and is expected to prodetails of the nursing home's duce a paper on the subject

The Office of the Ombuds-The nursing home is paid man has already concluded in €1,285 a week per resident a landmark case that residents by the State under the Fair in one nursing home should Deal scheme. The fee includes only have to pay for services residents' contributions to- they use -a finding that will wards their cost of care. In have implications for other

The Competition and Conprogramme" consisting of sumer Protection Authority activities, games, outings, has confirmed to the Sunday Independent that it has and €25 a week for the Marlay launched a "project" to exam-Doctor service, regardless of ine nursing home contracts. also a quarterly €12 charge for ing home operators are com-

One of the greatest gaps in

Our investigation is by no top of the cost of other "billa- means exhaustive and we are ble" services. There was barely reliant on the information quoted to us by the homes we contacted.

We undertook this investigation when our attempts to openly ask nursing homes for their charges failed.

Having reached over 300 of the country's private and voluntary nursing homes, our investigation provides during the information morn- an important overview of the scale of charges being quoted to prospective nursing home residents. This is important of the additional charges in its not only for residents who are in nursing homes, but also for private nursing home

operators themselves. There are two ways of looking at the estimated figure of €16.9m collected in additional charges. Families will look upon it as an added financial burden thrust on to elderly over 300 nursing homes that residents. Private nursing home operators will look upon it as filling the gap in what the State pays them to care for our older population and what it actually costs them to provide the service.

Nursing homes in affluent areas tended to quote higher additional charges.

Leeson Park in Dublin 6, for instance, was the most expensive at €325 a week for a resident in a single room. The Silver Stream group, the in a statement that it provides "premium" nursing care in the per week, said charges are the nursing home agree, in parently with prospective advance, the fee structure residents. "No person is ever depending on care options

has commanded a higher and what is included or not day for activities. premium since it was estab- included. lished, its level of fees has not increased since 2008."

which has an additional service charge of €175 a week, said it is open about its charghigh standard of care and Fair Deal was intended to service we provide. We have a the phone. relieve people of worrying high level of staff. We charge about whether they could a very fair fee for the quality afford nursing home care in of care and level of service we

FAIR DEAL FEES AND EXTRA CHARGES

Fair Deal | Additional

Information provided by nursing homes and through our own investigations

fefe	e p/w	charge p/w	
CARLOW			Cramers Court Nursing Home, Belgooly
	0055	0150 /	Douglas Nursing and Retirement Home
Signature Care Killerig	€855	€150 p/m	Teach Altra Nursing Home, Newmarket
Sonas Glendale Nursing Home, Tullow Borris Lodge Nursing Home, Borris	€855 €880	€20 €10	
Riverdale Nursing Home, Ballon	€850	€2 p/d	DONEGAL
Beechwood Nursing Home, Leighlinbridge	€875	€21	Hillcrest House Nursing Home, Letterken
Hillview Nursing Home, Carlow	€855		St Eunan's Nursing Home, Letterkenny
Timiview Harsing Frome, Garlow	0033		Brindley Manor Private Nursing
CAVAN			Home, Convoy
Castlemanor Nursing Home, Drumalee	€955	_	Aras Ghaoth Dobhair, Derrybeg
Oak View Nursing Home, Belturbet	€883		Aras Mhic Shuibhne, Laghey
St Joseph's Nursing Home, Virginia	€850	€30	Aras Ui Dhomhnaill Nursing Home, Milfo
Sheelin Nursing Home, Mountnugent	€845		Lake House Nursing Home, Dunfanghy
CLARE			DUBLIN
St Theresa's Nursing Home, Kilrush	€820		St Joseph's Centre, Shankill
St Dominic Savio Nursing Home, Liscannor	€770		Talbot Lodge Nursing Home, Malahide
Riverdale House, Ardnacrusha	€800	_	Beechfield Manor Nursing Home, Shanki
Kilrush Nursing Home	€840	€35	Glencarrig Nursing Home, Tallaght
Kilrush District Hospital Ltd	€780	_	€35 p/w or €152p/m
Lakes Nursing Home, Kilaloe	€900	€35	Tara Winthrop Private Clinic, Swords
Cahercalla Community Hospital, Ennis	€860	_	St Mary's Centre Nursing Home, Merrior
Sancta Maria Nursing Home, Cratloe	€820	€15	Churchview Nursing Home, Phibsboroug
Ennis Nursing Home	€900	€35	Swords Nursing Home, Swords
Athlunkard House Nursing Home, Westbury	€810	€25	Riverside Nursing Home, St Margaret's
0001/			Harvey Nursing Home, Glenageary
CORK			Altadore Nursing Home, Glenageary
Windmill House Nursing Home, Mallow	€860	€40	Foxrock Nursing Home, Foxrock Annabeg Nursing Home, Ballybrack
Bushmount Nursing Home, Clonakilty	€959	€100 p/m	Beneavin House, Glasnevin
Amberley Home and Retirement			Ashbury Private Nursing Home, Blackroo
Cottages, Fermoy	€865	€65	Shrewsbury House Nursing
Youghal and District Nursing Home	€910	€3 p/d	Home, Drumcondra
Darraglynn Nursing Home, Douglas	€915	€20	Kiltipper Woods Care Centre, Tallaght
Corpus Christi Nursing Home, Mitchelstown	€775	€20	€50 p/w or €216.66 per month
Glendonagh Residential Home, Midleton	€920	€25	Marian House Nursing Home, Terenure
East Ferry House, Midleton	€820	<u> </u>	Ailesbury Private Nursing Home, Sandyn
Brookfield Care Centre, Leamlara Glyntown Care Centre, Glanmire	€990 €860	€5 p/d	Mount Hybla Private, Castleknock
Powdermill Nursing Home and	6000	65 р/и	Mount Sackville Nursing Home, Chapeliz
Care Centre, Ballincollig	€875	€10	Marymount Care Centre, Lucan
Araglen House Nursing Home, Boherbue	€925	€40	New Lodge Nursing Home, Rathfarnham
Nazareth House, Mallow	€1,185	_	La Verna Nursing Home, Clontarf
Blair's Hill Nursing Home, Sunday's Well	€875	_	Newpark Care Centre, The Ward
Carechoice Clonakilty	€1,010	€35	Nazareth House, Clontarf
Deerpark House, Bantry	€910	_	Belmont House Private Nursing
Rochestown Nursing Home	€815	€10	Home, Stillorgan
Bridhaven Nursing Home, Mallow	€1,015	€40	Elmhurst Nursing Home, Glasnevin
Norwood Grange, Waterfall	€895	€60 p/m	Sally Park Nursing Home, Templeogue
St Luke's Home, Mahon	€1,250	_	The Croft Nursing Home, Inchicore
Skibbereen Residential Care Centre	€955	€25	TLC Centre Santry
Padre Pio House, Mallow	€865		Ardmore Lodge Nursing Home, Finglas
Beaumont Residential Care, Ballintemple	€985		St Monica's Nursing Home, Belvedere Pla
Carechoice Montenotte	€1,045	€35	Rush Nursing Home, Rush Leeson Park House Nursing Home, Dubli
Strawhall Nursing Home, Fermoy	€790	€20	€325 for a single room or €125 for a shared
Bishopscourt Residential Care, Waterfall	€910	€30	Carysfort Nursing Home, Glenageary
Rosenalee Care Centre, Ballincollig	€975	€117 p/m	Glengara Park Nursing Home, Dun Laogh
Abbeylands Nursing Home, Kildorrery	€870	€25	Mill Brook Manor Nursing Home, Saggar
Blarney Nursing and Retirement Home	€890	€20	Glebe House Nursing Home, Kilternan
Carechoice Macroom	€1,010	€5 p/d	Dalkey Lodge Nursing Home, Dalkey
St Martha's Nursing Home, Charleville	€910	- CE p /d	Cara Care Centre, Santry
Carechoice Ballynoe, White's Cross	€1,010	€5 p/d	Beechtree Nursing Home, Oldtown
Cobh Community Hospital	€1,070		St Gladys' Nursing Home, Harold's Cross
			Beechlawn House Nursing
			Homo Drumerondra



KFY:	n/w Pei	
services or paying a set weekly fee.		
Residents offered choice of billing for individual	61,110	830
Orwell Private, Rathgar Hamilton Park Care Facility, Balbriggan	€1,200 €1,110	€70 €50
Padre Pio Nursing Home, Clondalkin	€1,040	€50 p/m
Brabazon House Nursing Home, Sandymount	€1,030	— —
Ashford House Nursing Home, Dun Laoghaire Alzheimer Care Centre, Whitehall	€1,175 €1,310	€70 €175 p/m
Ferndene Nursing Home, Blackrock	€1,150	€95
TLC Citywest, Citywest	€1,239	€25
Our Lady's Manor, Dalkey Elm Green Nursing Home, Castleknock	€985 €1,198	 €100 p/m
St Pappin's Nursing Home, Ballymun	€1,130	€125 p/m
Harvey Nursing Home Terenure	€1,140	€35
Simpson's Hospital, Dundrum	€1,110	€20
Clontarf Private Nursing Home, Clontarf St Patrick's Care Centre, Baldoyle	€1,035 €1,130	€125 p/m €25
St Gabriel's Nursing Home, Edenmore	€1,050	€65
The Marlay Nursing Home, Rathfarnham	€1,285	€75
Gascoigne House, Rathmines	€1,195	<u>-</u> €25
Beechlawn House Nursing Home, Drumcrondra	€1,150	_
St Gladys' Nursing Home, Harold's Cross	€1,170	€35
Beechtree Nursing Home, Oldtown	€1,100	€40
Cara Care Centre, Santry	€1,195	€73.50
Glebe House Nursing Home, Kilternan Dalkey Lodge Nursing Home, Dalkey	€1,195 €1,195	€25 €73.50
Mill Brook Manor Nursing Home, Saggart	€1,150	_
Glengara Park Nursing Home, Dun Laoghaire		€85
€325 for a single room or €125 for a shared room Carysfort Nursing Home, Glenageary	€1,110	
Leeson Park House Nursing Home, Dublin 6	€1,225	€325/€125
Rush Nursing Home, Rush	€1,090	€35
St Monica's Nursing Home, Belvedere Place	€1,133	€25
TLC Centre Santry Ardmore Lodge Nursing Home, Finglas	€1,239 €1,155	€53.50
The Croft Nursing Home, Inchicore	€1,095	€50 p/m €25
Sally Park Nursing Home, Templeogue	€1,070	_
Elmhurst Nursing Home, Glasnevin	€1,200	€175 p/m
Home, Stillorgan	€1,235	€7 p/d
Nazareth House, Clontarf Belmont House Private Nursing	€1,150	€20
Newpark Care Centre, The Ward	€1,165	-
La Verna Nursing Home, Clontarf	€1,000	€20
New Lodge Nursing Home, Rathfarnham	€1,200	_
Marymount Care Centre, Lucan	€1,200	€35
Mount Sackville Nursing Home, Chapelizod	€960	-
Ailesbury Private Nursing Home, Sandymoun Mount Hybla Private, Castleknock	t €1,200 €1,199	€70 €100
Marian House Nursing Home, Terenure	€1,010 + €1,200	-
€50 p/w or €216.66 per month	01.03.5	
Kiltipper Woods Care Centre, Tallaght	€1,255	
Home, Drumcondra	€1,000	€25
Ashbury Private Nursing Home, Blackrock Shrewsbury House Nursing	€1,200	€70
Beneavin House, Glasnevin	€1,274	€80
Annabeg Nursing Home, Ballybrack	€1,045	€80
Foxrock Nursing Home, Foxrock	€1,175	€100
Harvey Nursing Home, Glenageary Altadore Nursing Home, Glenageary	€1,050 €1,210	€25 €100
Riverside Nursing Home, St Margaret's	€1,110	€35
Swords Nursing Home, Swords	€1,225	€35
Churchview Nursing Home, Phibsborough	€1,020	<u></u> €25
Tara Winthrop Private Clinic, Swords St Mary's Centre Nursing Home, Merrion Rd	€1,250 €1,160	€20 p/m
€35 p/w or €152p/m	61.250	620 n/m
Glencarrig Nursing Home, Tallaght	€1,050	
Beechfield Manor Nursing Home, Shankill	€1,199	€85
St Joseph's Centre, Shankill Talbot Lodge Nursing Home, Malahide	€1,325 €1,160	€100 p/m €35
DUBLIN St. Joseph's Control Chambill	61 225	6100 n/m
Lake House Nursing Home, Dunfanghy	€765	_
Aras Mhic Shuibhne, Laghey Aras Ui Dhomhnaill Nursing Home, Milford	€790 €810	
Aras Ghaoth Dobhair, Derrybeg	€810	
Home, Convoy	€785	
Brindley Manor Private Nursing	6000	
Hillcrest House Nursing Home, Letterkenny St Eunan's Nursing Home, Letterkenny	€785 €830	



	Fair Deal fee p/w	Additional charge p/
St Mary's Home, Ballsbridge	€1,000	€65 p/m
Carechoice Malahide	€1,150	€50
Mount Tabor Care Centre, Sandymount	€1,140	_
Beneavin Lodge Nursing Home, Glasnevin	€1,274	€80
Maryfield Nursing Home, Chapelizod	€1,040	€30
GALWAY		
Brooklodge Nursing Home, Tuam	€880	_
Little Flower Nursing Home, Ardrahan	€800	
Castleturvin House Nursing Home, Athenry	€840	€20
Blake Manor Nursing Home, Kilcolgan	€870	
Clarenbridge Nursing Home, Craughwell	€880	€40
Stella Maris Nursing Home, Tuam	€810	_
Holy Family Nursing Home, Ballinasloe	€835	€10
Central Park Nursing Home, Ballinasloe	€860	€20
Mystical Rose Private Nursing Home, Claregalway	€905	_
Coral Haven Residential Nursing		
Home, Headford Road	€900	€25
Garbally View Nursing Home, Ballinasloe	€730	
Dughterard Manor, Oughterard	€825	
Aras Chois Fharraige, Spideal	€903	_
Hillside Nursing Home, Ballinasloe	€725	
Nightingale Nursing Home, Ballinasloe	€725	
Mill Race Nursing Home, Ballinasloe	€790	_
Bushfield Care Centre, Oranmore	€800	_
St Mary's Residential Care		
Centre, Shantalla Road	€880	_
St Francis' Nursing Home, Ballinasloe	€770	_
Flannery's Nursing Home, Tuam	€830	_
Kilcolgan Nursing Home, Kilcolgan	€840	€35
Rosemount House Nursing Home, Gort	€770	_
Ballinderry Nursing Home, Ballinasloe	€820	_
Teach Altranais / Carna Nursing		
Home, Connemara	€915	_
Moycullen Nursing Home, Moycullen	€860	€35
Mountbellew Nursing Home, Mountbellew	€785	€20
Corrandulla Nursing Home, Corandulla	€760	€10 p/m
Nursing home said list of costs supplied to our nvestigator was a draft document		

p/m Per month

Oaklands Nursing Home, Listowel

p/d Per day

Our Lady of Lourdes Care Facility, Killarney €890

Ashborough Lodge Nursing Home, Milltown €845

No charge

€850

where the charge is €100 admitted to our nursing home and understanding of what "While this nursing home their costs and fees will be,

"All of these fees and charges are detailed in our Contract The operators of Kinvara of Care which is discussed House Nursing Home in Bray, with everyone when viewing our facility.'

A striking feature of our investigation was the disparity Fair Deal system. Nursing es and they are disclosed in not only in the scale of the full to residents in advance: charges levied — or not, as "We are fully upfront about the case may be - but in the our fees. They reflect the very willingness of nursing homes happy to share their inforto disclose those charges over

One of the country's biggest nursing home chains, the Brindley Health Care Group, told us that it does not have

operators of Leeson Park, said ator, Altadore Nursing Home, or therapies in any of its six nursing homes told us that care homes. The cost of these activities is included in the if the resident cannot afford Fair Deal price and residents pay extra for other services as in rural nursing homes, but they need them. The Ryevale also in Dublin. The Hamilton Nursing Home in Kildare which received €5.4m under newspaper that residents are the Fair Deal scheme last year charges its residents €1 a

A disparity arises in how nursing homes approach disclosing the issue of charges. Harvey Healthcare Group

publishes charges for five Dublin nursing homes online these range from €25 to €35 a week. So do a number of other smaller nursing homes, such as Ardmore Care, Finglas.

Many nursing homes are mation on charges, willing to and explain in detail what the

extra charges cover. Many also offered advice on the arduous process of

they do not impose the charge it. This was particularly so Park Care Facility told this offered the choice of paying a service charge of €50 that covers everything, including taxis to hospital, or being invoiced separately for each service.

Some nursing homes refused to disclose any information over the phone about charges

Several were suspicious of our motives in calling, suspecting that we might be reporters. The media coverage of late has clearly rankled. Several spoke bitterly about the publicity given to recent post brochures, offer advice reports that nursing home residents were being charged €20 for Mass.

Their views reflected a sector that is feeling under Another south Dublin oper- ditional charges for activities applying for Fair Deal. Some fire and under-appreciated.

INFORMATION SHOULD BE MORE TRANSPARENT — MINISTER

WANT to ensure that we, as a country, are not only successful in adding years to life but ensure that we are adding life to years.

p/w Per week

I place huge emphasis, not only on the quality of care provided, but also efforts to improve the quality of living afforded to residents of our nursing

I have met with Nursing Homes Ireland (NHI) a number of times on this subject and requested more consistency and transparency on the part of nursing homes in dealing with additional charges for social activities.

I have asked that nursing homes advise of these charges on enquiry level, as opposed to the current practice of admission. I have also suggested NHI considers the option of its members providing a profit and loss account detailing monies collected and spent on such social activities.

I also requested an updated template be used by all nursing homes and that homes publish all social charges online.

I met with Age Action Ireland, the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) and the Ombudsman on the

topic in recent weeks. The Ombudsman received 30 complaints regarding nursing homes last year and 36 so far this year. Just one complaint last year related to

charges. There is currently an interdepartmental review of the Fair Deal scheme and I have asked them to also consider this issue before

reporting back to me. My main priority is to ensure that nursing homes continue to provide a wide and engaging range of activities for their residents and to provide maximum and optimum transparency

and consistency on all charges. Jim Daly is the Minister of State for Mental Health and Older People

HOME CARE IN IRELAND



What is Fair Deal?

THE Nursing Home Support Scheme was introduced in 2008 to help older people finance their nursing homecare. It's known as the Fair Deal scheme because it's supposed to be a fairer way of financing elder care.

■ HOW DOES IT WORK?

Older people preparing to go into a nursing home contribute a minimum of 20pc of the cost of their care. The State pays the balance. Once you are assessed as ready to go into a nursing home, you can apply. The Health Service Executive will assess your finances, taking into account your income, pensions, assets, property, savings. If you qualify, the HSE decides how much you contribute. If you don't want to have to sell your home to finance your nursing home care, you can apply for the Nursing Home Loan, which will be repaid out of your estate. You can apply to any private, voluntary or public

■ WHY IS IT CONSIDERED FAIR?

Because older people would move into a nursing home, knowing that all the costs of their care would be met and they wouldn't necessarily have to sell the home from under them to finance it. The Government promised that under Fair Deal, no older person would be left with less than 20pc of their income, so they would have enough to fund the odd blow-

St Phelim's Nursing Home, Dromahair

LEITRIM

dry or flutter on the 2.35 at Doncaster.

■ WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Money. Private and voluntary nursing homes don't get to set their weekly price for residents who come in under Fair Deal. The National Treatment Purchase Fund does. The NTPF, which sources private care for public patients, sets the price after going through the books of nursing home operators. Nursing home operators say the State is not paying enough.

HOW COME?

The State stumps up to cover the basics: bed and board, laundry, nursing home care, etc. But the law also requires nursing homes to ensure quality of life by providing therapies, activities and outings, which cost money. Private operators believe that it is unfair that the State requires nursing homes to provide services to residents that it won't pay for. To compound their grievance, nursing home operators claim another injustice is that HSE-operated public nursing homes can get paid up to three times more per resident than private operators.

WHAT ARE NURSING **HOMES DOING ABOUT IT?**

Fair Deal

€880

The Government has been reviewing the Fair Deal scheme for more than a year

Additional

charge p/w

now. But, in the meantime, most nursing homes are passing the additional costs of "activities" and "social programmes" on to Fair Deal residents. The costs vary wildly from €1 a day to €325 per week, as our investigation has shown. Others don't charge at all. And nobody is actually regulating the charges to ensure they are fair. The charges are not hidden — but they are not quite transparent either. Few publish them in brochures or on their websites. Some nursing homes insist on meeting you in person before they will divulge what additional charges they plan

WHERE DOES THIS LEAVE **VULNERABLE NURSING HOME RESIDENTS?**

Between a rock and a hard place. Elderly residents and their families who were promised a Fair Deal are the ones left to fork out for the gap between what the State pays nursing homes and what nursing homes say is the true cost of the care. Advocacy groups say in some cases this is leaving elderly residents impoverished. The remaining 20pc of their pension they were told they would have to spend is not so protected after all. A Fair Deal, but not for nursing homes and certainly not for the elderly residents they are paid to care for.

Fair Deal

€935

€810

€820

Additional

charge p/w

€38

€10

Maeve Sheehan

AbbeyBreaffy Nursing Home, Castlebar

Ave Maria Nursing Home, Ballyhaunis

Hollymount Private Nursing and

Retirement Home, Claremorris

Why we had to go undercover to find out extra charges

HEN the Sunday Independent began researching additional charges in private nursing homes three months ago, we found plenty of anecdotal evidence of €100-a-week top-up payments, but few facts.

The charges have become standard practice in

many private and voluntary nursing homes. They are charged to Fair Deal residents for services that nursing homes are required by law to provide but which are not covered in the fee they are paid by the State.

Older people and their families are already contributing to the cost of their nursing home under the Fair Deal scheme. We wanted to find out how much more money they are being asked to pay in extra charges on top of their Fair Deal contributions. Nobody knew.

We asked the nursing homes. We contacted a selection of private operators and voluntary homes. One private nursing home, Hamilton Park Care Facility in north Dublin, gave us the information. Nursing Homes Ireland, its representative body, then intervened to respond on its behalf. We did not get the information we were looking for.

We went about seeking the information another way. We presented ourselves as family members enquiring about nursing home care on behalf of an elderly relative who was keen to know what charges he or she may have to pay in addition to their Fair Deal contribution.

There are more than 400 private and voluntary nursing homes in Ireland. We set out to contact as many public and private nursing homes as we could.

By the end of the exercise, we had contacted more than 300 nursing homes. In some cases, owners were away. In other cases, staff were either not authorised to speak about charges or were unaware of the details.

Today, we publish a snapshot of Ireland's nursing homes — the vast majority provided us with information about additional charges. We also included nursing homes that, for various reasons, did not disclose their prices.

The table opposite is based on information provided to us by the nursing homes and from our own investigations.

From our research, we discovered that when a charge is applied, it is often — although not always - mandatory. Nursing homes described the charge to us in different ways. Some described it as an 'additional service charge', others as a 'social' or an 'activities' charge. It typically covers social activities, therapies such as physiotherapy



	fee p/w	charge p
St Louis' Nursing Home, Tralee	€810	_
Aras Mhuire Nursing Home, Listowel	€775	_
Our Lady of Fatima Home, Tralee	€895	
Killarney Nursing Home, Killarney	€860	€35
Kenmare Nursing Home 'Tir na nOg'	€805	_
St Joseph's Nursing Home, Kenmare	€820	€20
St Joseph's Home, Killorglin	€960	€10 p/m
Valentia Hospital, Valentia	€935	
Ocean View Nursing Home, Camp	€835	€45
Kilcara House Nursing Home, Duagh	€780	_
Lystoll Lodge Nursing Home, Listowel	€825	€15
Heatherlee Nursing Home, Killarney	€795	_
KILDARE		
Suncroft Lodge Nursing Home, Suncroft	€1,000	€10
Moyglare Nursing Home, Maynooth	€1,045	
Elm Hall Nursing Home, Loughlinstown	€1,000	€35
Mountpleasant Lodge, Kilcock	€1,121	-
Mill Lane Manor, Naas	€1,010	
Larchfield Park Nursing Home, Naas	€1,045	€3 p/d
Cloverlodge Nursing Home, Athy	€860	
Craddock House, Naas	€1,035	
Lourdesville Nursing Home, Kildare	€870	
TLC Centre Maynooth	€1,239	€25
Beech Park Nursing Home, Kildare	€940	<u> </u>
Parke House Nursing Home, Kilcock	€1,075	€5 p/d
Maynooth Lodge Nursing Home	€970	€30
Oghill Nursing Home, Monasterevin	€895	€50 p/m
Ashley Lodge Nursing Home, Kildare	€900	C7 :: /d
Hazel Hall Nursing Home, Clane	€1,000	€7 p/d
Ryevale Nursing Home, Leixlip	€1,250	€1 p/d
KILKENNY Sacred Heart Nursing Home, Johnstown	€870	
Archersrath Nursing Home, Cellarstown	€900	€35
Strathmore Lodge Nursing Home, Callan	€890	€15
Gowran Abbey Nursing Home, Gowran	€895	€10
Drakelands House Nursing Home, Kilkenny	€895	€12
Mooncoin Residential Care Centre	€895	€30
Tinnypark Nursing Home, Kilkenny	€860	€60 p/m
	0000	000 р/ш
LAOIS Kilminchy Lodge Nursing Home, Portlaoise	€850	_
Droimnin Nursing Home, Stradbally	€925	€20

Fair Deal | Additional

LIMERICK St Gobnait's Nursing Home, Kilmallock €750 Lir Nursing Home, Tournafulla €720 Rosary Hill House Nursing Home, Castleconnell €2.50 €770 Milford Nursing Home, Castletroy €1,015 Good Counsel Nursing Home, Limerick €760 Beech Lodge Care Facility, Bruree €890 €20 Ard Na Ri Nursing Home, Bruff €780 St Paul's Nursing Home, Dooradoyle €860 €20 Roseville House Nursing Home, Ballysimon €860 €35 Thorpe's Nursing Home, Clarina €740 €820 Corbally House Nursing Home, Corbally Caherass Nursing Home, Croom €855 €35 Beechwood House, Newcastle West €800 €50 Killeline Nursing Home, Newcastle West €870 Maria Goretti Nursing Home, Kilmallock Abbot Close Nursing Home, Askeaton €860 Adare and District Nursing Home, Croagh €8.85 €850 St Michael's Nursing Home, Caherconlish €20 LONGFORD Laurel Lodge Nursing Home, Longford €900 €15 Thomond Lodge Nursing Home, Ballymahon €835 €10 Our Lady's Manor Nursing Home, Edgeworthstown €890 €50 p/m LOUTH Moorehall Lodge Ardee, Ardee €975 €20 Carlingford Nursing Home, Carlingford €943 €25 It was not apparent from the brochure whether Dealgan House Nursing Home, Dundalk €990 €20 St Peter's Nursing Home, Castlebellingham Blackrock Abbey Nursing Home, Dundalk €20 St Francis' Nursing Home, Dundalk €35 Aras Mhuire Nursing Facility, Drogheda Sunhill Nursing Home, Termonfeckin €20 MAYO Friars Lodge Nursing Home, Ballinrobe €780 Ballinamore House Nursing Home, Kiltimagh €800

€920	_
€937	€30
€845	_
€830	_
€860	_
€850	_
€940	_
€1,030	_
€1,010	€80
€965	_
€1,080	€2.50 p/d
€990	€25
€990	€100 p/m
€965	€25
€910	_
€1,030	€25
€980	€20
€870	€35
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■ Figure unavailable upon initial enquiry. In some cases the nursing home responded by inviting us to the nursing home or to call them. Others were not able to disclose the figure on the telephone or the relevant person was not available to talk to our investigation team. Others supplied a brochure but this did not reveal if there were additional charges.

Private firms are fighting to cut costs — and get their voices heard the principles of person- But when it comes to the pro- cannot get paid for. Essential- and tease out the issues. Politicians must listen to major players

if they want to end the 'mixed-up economy' in care, writes Mervyn Taylor

O paraphrase WB Yeats, Support Scheme, the so-called an impact. Agencies are talking soon. and Minister of State for Older

There is talk of the malaise. Consumer and Competition

change "comes dropping Fair Deal, continues and a slow". The efforts of the consultation period on the Sunday Independent regarding development of a statutory nursing home fees are having home care system will end

Certain things seem clear People Jim Daly seems anxious after surveying the landscape to bring greater fairness to in early autumn. The nursing the system. Contracts that we home charges issue is not, had been told were perfect- as some are trying to portray ly adequate are now being it, a consumer issue. It is a symptom indicating a deeper

The vast majority of Authority and Hiqa having a older people want to become critically low. role. Meanwhile, the review of be supported to live in their the statutory Nursing Home own homes but despite talk about a 'mixed economy'. what nursing homes can and major commercial providers home contracts in October

centredness, integration and continuum of care we are now likely to have two separate statutory systems of care.

for a 'level playing field' but that is not what the public differently. want. They want a system that is clearly biased toward home care and provides good quality support and care in a congregated setting, such as a charges issue. nursing home, only when it is really necessary.

What is also clear is that without any public debate, Support Scheme Act (2009), and without a single policy and, in simple terms, it facrecommendation, nursing home care has effectively been outsourced to the private sector and public provision has of funding that homes get

vision of care it seems more like a 'mixed-up economy'. The State, through the Na-

tional Treatment Purchase There is talk of the need Fund (NTPF), deals with the public and private sectors Sage support and advocacy

service has consistently pointed to the role of the NTPF as central to the nursing home

The NTPF has to act within the terms of the relevant legislation, the Nursing Home es the dilemma of quantity over quality. It is the NTPF which determines the level and it is the legislation and Back in the days, we used to regulations which determine

ly it is bed and board. HIQA, quite rightly, raises the issue of quality of life and a stimulating environment but that needs to be paid for... and so

That commercial companies seek to maximise profits is hardly news. That they should seek to maximise profits from the care of our brothers, sisters, parents and grandparents is surely pause for thought.

do incontinence pads.

It is time for the Oireachtas Committee on Health to engage with this issue and, if it too is busy, why not have the new Petitions Committee cut its teeth on something that is of vital importance? Call in the NTPF, Hiqa, the Department of Health, the

They might even ask Sage which, as a support service for vulnerable adults and older people, had 46pc of its clients living in nursing homes in 2016.

Equally important, call in some of the nursing home providers who don't see themselves as part of an 'industry' who often aren't members of any lobby group and who genuinely struggle to provide quality of care while doing their level best to absorb as many costs as possible. They, too, are out there and their perspective needs to be

Mervyn Taylor is manager of Sage, Sage will launch a discussion document on nursing



BALANCING ACT: Nursing home providers want to offer the best care possible but they are also in business to make money

FAIR DEAL FEES AND EXTRA CHARGES

Information provided by nursing homes and through our own investigations

	air Deal ee p/w	Additiona charge p
MONAGHAN		
Castleross, Carrickmacross	€965	€20
Sacred Heart Nursing Home, Clones	€870	€25
Drumbear Lodge Nursing Home, Monaghan	€900	€50 p/m
Mullinahinch House, Mullinahinch	€935	
OFFALY		
Esker Ri Nursing Home, Clara	€850	_
Carthage Nursing Home, Tullamore	€885	€5
Eliza Lodge Nursing Home, Banagher	€850	€30
Elmgrove House Nursing Home, Birr	€775	_
Cloverlodge Nursing Home, Birr	€790	_
Ferbane Nursing Home, Ferbane	€820	_
Our Lady of Consolation Nursing	-020	
Home, Tullamore	€760	_
ROSCOMMON		
Innis Ree Lodge, Lanesborough	€840	_
Fearna Manor Nursing Home, Castlerea	€845	€40 p/m
Sonas Nursing Home, Cloverhill	€911	— p/iii
Tearmainn Bhride Nursing Home, Brideswel		
Residents have the option to pay for services indiv Alternatively, a €35p/m charge is offered and incl nairdressing and social activities.	vidually.	ody,
Costello's Care Centre, Lanesboro	€860	€15
Oakwood Private Nursing Home,	0000	000
Ballaghaderreen	€800	€30
SI TOO		
SLIGO	03.6=	
Ballymote Community Nursing Unit	€1,075	
Bailey's Nursing Home, Tubbercurry	€865	_
Summerville Healthcare, Strandhill	€895	€50
Nazareth House Nursing Home, Sligo	€1,075	_
Sligo Nursing Home, Ballytivnan	€820	€35
Sonas Ard Na Greine, Enniscrone	€911	_
TIPPERARY		
Acorn Lodge, Cashel	€850	€35
	€850	€15
		013
Greenhill Nursing Home, Carrick-on-Suir		615 n/m
Greenhill Nursing Home, Carrick-on-Suir St Martha's Nursing Home, Cahir	€805	€15 p/m
reenhill Nursing Home, Carrick-on-Suir at Martha's Nursing Home, Cahir Bramleigh Lodge Nursing Home, Cahir	€805 €860	€15 p/m —
Greenhill Nursing Home, Carrick-on-Suir St Martha's Nursing Home, Cahir Bramleigh Lodge Nursing Home, Cahir Bailey House Nursing Home, Thurles	€805 €860 €700	€15 p/m — —
Greenhill Nursing Home, Carrick-on-Suir St Martha's Nursing Home, Cahir Bramleigh Lodge Nursing Home, Cahir Bailey House Nursing Home, Thurles St Kieran's Care Home, Roscrea	€805 €860 €700 €855	€15 p/m — — —
Greenhill Nursing Home, Carrick-on-Suir St Martha's Nursing Home, Cahir Bramleigh Lodge Nursing Home, Cahir Bailey House Nursing Home, Thurles St Kieran's Care Home, Roscrea Villa Marie Nursing Home, Roscrea	€805 €860 €700 €855 €820	€15 p/m — — — —
Greenhill Nursing Home, Carrick-on-Suir St Martha's Nursing Home, Cahir Bramleigh Lodge Nursing Home, Cahir Bailey House Nursing Home, Thurles St Kieran's Care Home, Roscrea Villa Marie Nursing Home, Roscrea Willowbrook Lodge, Fethard	€805 €860 €700 €855 €820 €815	- - - -
Greenhill Nursing Home, Carrick-on-Suir St Martha's Nursing Home, Cahir Bramleigh Lodge Nursing Home, Cahir Bailey House Nursing Home, Thurles St Kieran's Care Home, Roscrea Villa Marie Nursing Home, Roscrea Willowbrook Lodge, Fethard The Cottage Nursing Home, Clonmel	€805 €860 €700 €855 €820 €815 €830	€15 p/m — — — — — — — — €2 p/d
Greenhill Nursing Home, Carrick-on-Suir St Martha's Nursing Home, Cahir Bramleigh Lodge Nursing Home, Cahir Brailey House Nursing Home, Thurles St Kieran's Care Home, Roscrea Villa Marie Nursing Home, Roscrea Villowbrook Lodge, Fethard The Cottage Nursing Home, Clonmel Rivervale Nursing Home, Nenagh	€805 €860 €700 €855 €820 €815 €830 €800	— — — — — €2 p/d
Greenhill Nursing Home, Carrick-on-Suir St Martha's Nursing Home, Cahir Bramleigh Lodge Nursing Home, Cahir Bailey House Nursing Home, Thurles St Kieran's Care Home, Roscrea Villa Marie Nursing Home, Roscrea	€805 €860 €700 €855 €820 €815 €830 €800 €830 group physic	— — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —
Greenhill Nursing Home, Carrick-on-Suir St Martha's Nursing Home, Cahir Bramleigh Lodge Nursing Home, Cahir Bailey House Nursing Home, Thurles St Kieran's Care Home, Roscrea Willa Marie Nursing Home, Roscrea Willowbrook Lodge, Fethard The Cottage Nursing Home, Clonmel Rivervale Nursing Home, Nenagh Padre Pio Nursing Home, Thurles E1.50p/d social activities charge and a €1.50p/d g Residents who chose not to, or are unable to part	€805 €860 €700 €855 €820 €815 €830 €800 €830 group physic	—————————————————————————————————————
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Greenhill Nursing Home, Carrick-on-Suir St Martha's Nursing Home, Cahir Bramleigh Lodge Nursing Home, Cahir Bailey House Nursing Home, Thurles St Kieran's Care Home, Roscrea Villa Marie Nursing Home, Roscrea Willowbrook Lodge, Fethard The Cottage Nursing Home, Clonmel Rivervale Nursing Home, Nenagh Padre Pio Nursing Home, Thurles EL50p/d social activities charge and a €1.50p/d g Residents who chose not to, or are unable to particharged for these services." Ashlawn House Nursing Home, Nenagh Nenagh Manor Nursing Home, Nenagh	€805 €860 €700 €855 €820 €815 €830 €800 €830 group physic ticipate, will €865 €870	— — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —
Greenhill Nursing Home, Carrick-on-Suir St Martha's Nursing Home, Cahir Bramleigh Lodge Nursing Home, Cahir Brailey House Nursing Home, Thurles St Kieran's Care Home, Roscrea Villa Marie Nursing Home, Roscrea Villowbrook Lodge, Fethard The Cottage Nursing Home, Clonmel Rivervale Nursing Home, Nenagh Padre Pio Nursing Home, Thurles \$1.50p/d social activities charge and a \$1.50p/d g Residents who chose not to, or are unable to partharged for these services." Ashlawn House Nursing Home, Nenagh Patterson's Nursing Home, Nenagh Patterson's Nursing Home, Roscrea Bushy Park Nursing Home, Borrisokane	€805 €860 €700 €855 €820 €815 €830 €800 €830 group physic ticipate, will €865 €870 €840 €840	— — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —
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Greenhill Nursing Home, Carrick-on-Suir St Martha's Nursing Home, Cahir Bramleigh Lodge Nursing Home, Cahir Bailey House Nursing Home, Thurles St Kieran's Care Home, Roscrea Villa Marie Nursing Home, Roscrea Willowbrook Lodge, Fethard The Cottage Nursing Home, Clonmel Rivervale Nursing Home, Nenagh Padre Pio Nursing Home, Thurles EL50p/d social activities charge and a €1.50p/d g Chesidents who chose not to, or are unable to part Charged for these services." Ashlawn House Nursing Home, Nenagh Nenagh Manor Nursing Home, Nenagh Patterson's Nursing Home, Roscrea Bushy Park Nursing Home, Borrisokane St Teresa's Nursing Home, Cashel Millbrae Lodge Nursing Home Ltd, Newport	€805 €860 €700 €855 €820 €815 €830 €800 €830 group physic ticipate, will €865 €870 €840 €840 €835 £ 6870	— — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —
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Additional	

charge p/w

€830 €2 p/d Woodlands Nursing Home, Dundrum

Fair Deal

€885

€895

€855

€15

fee p/w

WATERFORD			
Haven Wood Retirement Home, Ballygunner	€990	•	
Carechoice, Dungarvan	€960	€35	
Maypark House Nursing Home, Waterford	€895		
Killure Bridge Nursing Home, Waterford	€895	€30	

WESTMEATH

St Joseph's Home, Ferrybank

Rockshire Care Centre, Ferrybank

Padre Pio Rest Home, Cappoquin

Bethany House Nursing Home, Tyrrellspass	€815	€30 p/m
Roselodge Nursing Home, Kilucan	€830	€25
St Camillus' Nursing Centre, Killucan	€810	_
Newbrook Lodge Nursing Home, Mullingar	€850	€50
Newbrook Nursing Home, Mullingar	€850	€50
Moate Nursing Home, Moate	€840	€5 p/d
Retreat Nursing Home, Bonnavalley	€790	_
Portiuncula Nursing Home, Multyfarnham	€830	€50 p/m

WEXFORD

Cherry Grove Nursing Home, New Ross	€830	€1 p/d
Kerlogue Nursing Home, Wexford	€925	€50 p/m
Castle Gardens Nursing Home, Enniscorthy	€830	€25
Ros Aoibhinn Nursing Home, Bunclody	€800	€20
Valentia House Nursing Home, Enniscorthy	€815	€25
New Ross Community Hospital, New Ross	€830	
Oakfield Nursing Home, Gorey	€870	€3 p/d
Knockeen Nursing Home, Wexford	€875	
Lawson House Nursing Home, Enniscorthy	€815	€20 p/m
The Moyne Nursing Home, Enniscorthy	€780	€30 p/m

WTCKLOW

Blainroe Lodge, Blainroe	€1,055	€80
Greystones Nursing Home, Greystones	€975	€25
Earlsbrook House, Bray	€1,055	€80
Kinvara House Nursing Home, Bray	€1,190	€175
Shannagh Bay Nursing Home, Bray	€1,150	€2 p/d
Aisling House Nursing Home, Arklow	€875	_
Kylemore House Nursing Home, Bray	€1,035	_
Atlanta Nursing Home, Bray	€1,010	€50
Dargle Valley Nursing Home, Enniskerry	€1,035	€50
Dunlavin Nursing Home, Dunlavin	€1,020	€140p/m
Tara Care Centre, Bray	€1,025	€40
Bray Manor Nursing Home, Bray	€960	€40
San Remo Nursing and Convalescent		
Home, Bray	€1,150	_
Cairn Hill Nursing Home Bray, Bray	€1,070	€95
Donore Nursing Home, Bray	€1,015	_

KEY:

m Per month

p/d Per day No charge

■ Figure unavailable upon initial enquiry. In some cases the nursing home responded by inviting us to the nursing home or to call them. Others were not able to disclose the figure on the telephone or the relevant person was not available to talk to our investigation team. Others supplied a brochure but this did not reveal if there were additional charges.

NURSING HOMES WITH THE HIGHEST ADDITIONAL CHARGES

Leeson Park Nursing Home, Dublin 6

Part of Silverstream Healthcare Group Fair Deal fee: €1,225 per week Additional charge: €325 per week for a single room; €125 per week for a shared room What it covers: Activities and services

■ Kinvara House Nursing Home

Bray, Co Wicklow Family run nursing home Fair Deal fee: €1,190 Additional charge: €175 What it covers: Activities and services

Altadore Nursing Home Glenageary, Co Dublin

Family run nursing home Fair Deal fee: €1,210 Additional charge: €100 What it covers: Activities and services

Mount Hybla Nursing Home Castleknock, Dublin 15 Part of Beechfield Care Group Fair Deal fee: €1,199 Additional charge: €100

What it covers: Activities and services

Foxrock Nursing Home Foxrock, South Dublin Part of Trinity Health Care Group Fair Deal fee: €1,175 Additional charges: €100 What it covers: Activities and services

■ Cairn Hill Nursing Home Bray, Wicklow

Family run nursing home Fair Deal fee: €1,070 Additional charge: €95 What it covers: Activities and services

Ferndene Nursing Home, Blackrock, Dublin

Part of Willis Care Group Fair Deal fee: €1,150 **Additional charge:** €95 What it covers: Activities and services

■ Beneavin House and Beneavin Lodge Nursing

Homes, Glasnevin, Dublin Part of FirstCare Group Fair Deal fee: €1,274

What it covers: Activities and services Blainroe Lodge,

Co Wicklow Part of the FirstCare Group

Additional charge: €80

Fair Deal fee: €1,055 Additional charge: €80 What it covers: Activities and services

Earlsbrook House

Bray, Co Wicklow Part of the FirstCare Group Fair Deal fee: €1,055 Additional charge: €80

What it covers: Activities and services



/VIIIUSIVII VII price list at Galway home

Additional charges being waived for residents, says manager

Wayne O'Connor

THE confusion surrounding nursing homes and additional charges is underlined in the case of Corrandulla Nursing Home in Galway.

On September 6, Corrandercover Sunday Independent charge. reporter who told staff that homes for an aunt who was care. He asked for information on costs and additional charges that she would have to pay on top of her Fair Deal contribution.

Corrandulla's person in charge and director of nursing, Aishling Hayden-Abed, replied to our email and provided a residents' guide and 'additional charge informa-

"Should you have any quesnot hesitate to contact me or one of my colleagues," she

was dated August 1, 2017, five and was under review. weeks before our initial inquiry. It disclosed information of a €1.50-per-hour charge for rentable mobility equipment such as wheelchairs and walking aids. Personal use of a television was listed at €7 per week with an additional €3 per week for personal use of a radio.

According to the document, activities including nursing home. art, live and recorded music, therapy, films, knitting and at a rate of €10 per calendar sory, many would experience our bed capacity."

travel and transportation to Mr Hayden. and from the home were also listed beside costs for computabsorbed costs based on the er usage, internet access and relationship it has with its telephone calls.

the home seeking further creasing revenue. dulla was contacted by an un- information on the television

that the resident would have than wanted, but could not Hayden-Abed.

Last week, the Sunday a number of follow-up ques-

tions or queries please do implemented many of the to include some, if not all, Hayden added that the list of non- compulsory ones," he The list of charges she sent charges was not completed added.

"We believe that should

month. Charges for escorted unnecessary hardship," said

He added that Corrandulla residents. He said it focused Our 'nephew' replied to on residents rather than in-

"Where some of our residents require non-"There is a TV in all rooms compulsory/compulsory he was researching nursing and in the three sitting rooms services they needed, rather

preparing to go into long-term access to for free," said Ms afford, we have waived the costs and have paid for them 'The charge is if someone from business/personal assets wants an additional connec- - as we have friendships with tion to the TV or wants it many long-term residents changed to a different type which results in unnecessary financial costs for the business.

"I personally believe that if Independent contacted all nursing homes were paid Corrandulla openly with de- the same amount, based on a tails of our investigation and country-wide average, instead of current pricing methods, the scope of the Fair Deal The home said it had not could be realistically expanded charges included on the list. of the compulsory services Nurse manager Michael and maybe even some of the

"Current Mr Hayden said the price Treatment Purchase Fund list sent after our initial in- pricing is not very negotiable. quiry was a "draft document The prices offered are not of sample services that are linked to wages or inflation. not covered by the Fair Deal Independent or small nursing homes are not the cash cows However, there was no many people appear to believe, mention of this being a draft with many family ownerdocument or these charges operated nursing homes being under review during trying hard to provide a homeour first exchanges with the like quality service that they can be proud of.

"As this nursing home has bingo, baking, reminiscence residents be charged for ser- grown, we have expanded and vices that are not covered by improved the quality of our board games were charged the Fair Deal but are compulfacilities, and have reduced

spent on boosting care of elderly Improving care home services needs funding to make it happen. Our elderly deserve nothing less, says **Tadgh Daly**

ing to pay. Parents see this in living and social care needs. education, farmers on their land, business people see this in regulations, and older people see it in their care

Care and welfare regulations, set and inspected by the independent body Hiqa, stipulate that nursing homes must provide residents with "facilities for occupation and recreation and opportunities to participate in activities in accordance with their interests and capacities".

This is as it should be **Deal and its** and Nursing Homes Ireland (NHI) members provide a range of goods, services and activities that one would expect for residents in what is their "home from home".

But the State contract with nursing homes under the Fair Deal scheme, setting out the terms of provision, excludes the costs incurred for such a range of goods, services and activities.

The State's definition of what constitutes "long-term residential care services" under Fair Deal is explicit and limited. The Fair Deal fee encompasses bed and board, nursing and personal care, bedding, laundry, basic aids and appliances.

Fair Deal explicitly details the services not covered by its fees — listing social programmes, therapies, hairdressing, transport and chiropody, as well as newspapers and specialised wheelchairs. Provision of activities and opportunities State is complicit. for recreation and therapy, in

■HERE are two realities accordance with their interin Ireland. What the ests, capacities and dedicated State sets down as an care plan, is fundamental to obligation and what it is will- meeting older people's health,

> However, for those in private and voluntary nursing homes, having worked hard throughout their lives and paid their taxes, it is something they must pay for

'There needs to be a discussion about the Fair failings'

The State, in its own homes, pays for these services through the HSE, with just a fraction of residents charged anything. That is discrimina-

tory in my view. It is right that nursing homes provide residents entrusted in their care with varied programmes of meaningful activities and services. However, it is wrong that it

should leave older people having to pay for this themselves from the remaining 20pc of their income after the Fair Deal support is considered.

At the same time, private and voluntary nursing homes are tasked with providing care from fees that are half those payable to their HSE counterparts.

Discriminatory practice is being overseen by the State in care of the older person in the nursing home sector. The

required under the regulawith a range of goods, services and activities that are specifi-Deal. The State is definitive in essential services. this regard. Indeed, the State body that negotiates fees with private and voluntary homes homes' accounts forensically to exclude all these items from

State refund on water bills better

the fee. Minister of State for Older People, Jim Daly, informed Dail Eireann in July that "although the Fair Deal covers core living expenses, residents nursing home, such as social programmes, newspapers or hairdressing. In recognition of this, anyone receiving Fair Deal financial support retains at least a fifth of their income".

This newspaper has claimed that these costs are hidden and I take issue with and are clearly listed in each Fees charged by nursing homes will vary, based on a range of factors, including costs incurred and the differing range of goods, services and activities provided.

The resident's contract, detailing charges for services, is presented prior to or on their admission to the home.

NHI has provided a Guide to Nursing Home Charges for Fair Deal (NHSS) residents.

Ironically, while these charges are the subject of comment and examination, there is no examination of the chasm between fees for residents in HSE-run nursing homes and what is paid to residents in private and voluntary ones. The higher costs of inefficient HSE nursing homes has the direct effect of eating **meets** a up large proportions of the Fair Deal budget.

It means there is less public money to cover all the services and items that the majority of residents need and end up Nursing homes are having to pay for themselves.

tions to provide residents nating against residents unchanged. The jury has in private and voluntary already ruled even though the homes, evidenced by the review, which has been going cally excluded under the Fair fees it pays and the access to on for five years, hasn't been It has been independently

examines each of the nursing providers of dementia care.

below those payable by the possibilities. HSE to its own homes.

being applied to State spending in HSE nursing homes and cost of providing the care. The Department of Health's

promised value for money review on public nursing homes as recommended in the Fair Deal Review in 2015 this has yet to get off the ground. The Ombudsman confirmed in his annual re-

this. They are not hidden port that his office received not upheld. There are more than 400 private and voluntary nursing

> man's remit caring for over 23.000 residents. The real discussion we should be having is about the review of the Fair Deal scheme

and the deficiencies in its pricing mechanism.

pricing that is being led by services encompassed under

dependency care that person's holistic needs comes at a

'High

The HSE is discrimi- the fee payable will remain completed.

In recent years, there has verified that private nurs- been a very welcome move ing homes are the majority away from seeing later years as a time of decline - to Yet they are tasked with considering them to be a providing it for fees that are time of new beginnings and

The National Positive Age-There is no accountability ing Strategy says: "Engagement through activity can help to maintain quality of it would appear the Govern- life, promote social contact, can still incur some costs in a ment has no idea of the true combat loneliness and isolation and maintain people as active members of society.

"Participation in leisure activities is associated with a lower risk of poor mental and physical health and mortality."

Active living for older people must be all encom-It is essential that the

just one complaint about 28,000 residents of our resident's contract for care nursing homes charges nursing homes, which inand is agreed on admission. in 2016. The complaint was cludes 5,000 in public beds, cludes 5,000 in public beds, are fully enabled to engage in activities that will bring them contentment, homes under the Ombuds- foster a spirit of friendship with their fellows and improve their mental and physical wellbeing.

However, high dependency care that meets a person's holistic needs comes at a cost. Minister Daly and his

The subsequent review of predecessors have been clear in declaring that the the Department of Health State fees for nursing care do has stipulated that the not encompass services and activities which are essential to supporting and promoting a person's wellbeing.

This gap needs to be bridged in the Budget. The money due back from water charges might be better invested in fulfilling the State's obligations to our older people as recently suggested by Daly - instead of giving them in theory that which they are denied in practice.

Tadhq Daly is CEO of Nursing Homes Ireland