



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,  
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,  
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19<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Deputy Bobby Aylward,  
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Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
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Dear Deputy Aylward,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary question, which was submitted to this department for response.

#### **PQ 29889/19**

*To ask the Minister for Health if the 20% funding cut imposed on an organisation (details supplied) will be reconsidered in view of its record in fighting for the rights of persons with intellectual disabilities; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Details Supplied: Inclusion Ireland

#### **HSE Response**

The HSE National Service Plan 2019 provides for a significant level of funding, at circa €1.9 billion, to deliver essential frontline services for people with a disability. These core services span a spectrum of essential interventions ranging from Clinical Therapeutic Supports, Rehabilitative Training / Day Services, Home Care Supports as well as Respite and Residential provision.

All funded service providers, including non-clinical/service delivery focussed organisations are required to deliver safe and effective services within a defined budget allocation. The HSE must also ensure that it prioritises available resources on the basis of meeting the health and social needs of people with a disability. Engagement is ongoing between the HSE nationally, the Community Healthcare Organisations (CHO) and the agencies we fund. The HSE works in partnership with these agencies to ensure the best level of service possible, including advocacy, is provided to people with a disability, and their families, within the resources available.

Following on from previous engagements at the National Disability Consultative Forum, the HSE wrote to the National Disability Representative Organisations concerning important matters relating to the delivery of supports and services within a legally defined Budget allocation to the HSE. This included an outline of the key priorities, investments and activity levels to be provided in 2019, and importantly, highlighted the HSE's funding position in 2019 and the critical actions to be implemented by HSE at national/CHO and frontline service level (i.e. funded Section 38 and 38 Service Providers).

Attention, in particular, was drawn to Section 7 of the NSP 2019 which deals with the measures that will be taken in order to maximise the delivery of safe service activity levels and sets out the approach to addressing the financial challenges in 2019. CHOs will engage with provider organisations on the specific actions, which will need to form the basis of quantifiable and reportable value improvement measures.

The Disability Umbrella Organisations, i.e. the Disability Federation of Ireland, Inclusion Ireland, and the National Federation of Voluntary Service Providers (formerly known as National Federation of Voluntary Bodies) were formally notified by the HSE on 6th February 2019 of the necessity to apply a reduction to their HSE funding allowance as part of the HSEs commitment to achieve value improvement targets within the Disability Sector.

Having regard to the clear commitment made by the HSE to deliver activity levels in accordance with the published National Service Plan 2019, it is necessary that the HSE makes the required adjustments, which commenced during February 2019 and which will be profiled out, accordingly, for the remainder of the year.

A significant level of engagement has taken place between the HSE and the National Disability Umbrella organisations, including Inclusion Ireland. Following these meetings and as agreed in conjunction with the organisations, the HSE agreed to make adjustments to the schedule of payments as a support to having adequate time for these organisations to source/ make applications for other forms of funding relevant to the areas of work they are undertaking. In this context, additions were made to monthly payments up to and including June in order to keep same level of monthly payments as 2018.

Further meetings were held with the three Disability Umbrella Organisations in May to discuss the service arrangements 2019, and in particular future planning in respect of services provided on behalf of the HSE as statutory funder. This is currently an on-going process.

Yours sincerely,



**Dr. Cathal Morgan,**  
**Head of Operations - Disability Services,**  
**Community Operations**