



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Straitéis agus Pleanáil Oifig na Míchumas,
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

Office of Disability Strategy and Planning,
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Deputy Neale Richmond
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: neale.richmond@oireachtas.ie

4th August 2020

Dear Deputy Richmond

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 17789/20

To ask the Minister for Health the measures in place to expand the eligibility for adult day services to persons with intellectual disabilities that are excluded from applying; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

DoH instructions: The Deputy has clarified as followed, and provided updated wording: The question relates to Down Syndrome day services and the possibility of eligibility for these services being expanded. "To ask the Minister for Health whether measures will be put in place to expand the eligibility for adult day services for individuals with Down Syndrome who do not currently qualify; and if he will make a statement on the matter

HSE Response

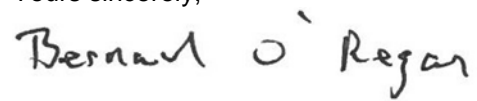
The HSE provides day services to almost 19,000 adults with disabilities at 966 service locations throughout the country. Adults that have a requirement for a HSE funded day service are usually referred through the school system as they approach the completion of their second level education. The HSE Guidance Officers meet with those referred and offer guidance in relation to the future service appropriate to their needs.

Many young people with disabilities leaving school progress onwards to mainstream services and avail of further education, vocational training or employment whilst many others have a requirement for a specialist day service. The eligibility for accessing disability day services relates to the needs and abilities of each individual and any young person with the ability to access mainstream services will not be accepted for a specialist service that they do not require and which may inhibit their overall development potential.

This strategy is in line with the National Disability Inclusion Strategy and the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities both of which articulate the rights of people with disabilities to avail of the whole range of public services that are available to all citizens of the state.

Specialist disability services are provided only where the need is identified and there is no difference to the eligibility criteria for any specific group of people with disabilities. There are many adults with Down Syndrome currently in receipt of day services funded by the HSE. Access to HSE funded day services is based on the individual's needs.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernard O'Regan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

**Bernard O'Regan,
Head of Disability Strategy and Planning**