



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> June 2020

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Dear Deputy Devlin

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to the Department of Health in relation to the following parliamentary question, which was submitted to the Department of Health for response.

#### **PQ 10474/20**

*To ask the Minister for Health the additional financial support provided to section 39 organisations from March to May 2020; the measures he is taking to ensure the future viability of such organisations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. Cormac Devlin TD.*

#### **HSE Response**

##### **Funding Issues**

The majority of disability service provision in Ireland has historically and continues to be provided by voluntary agencies, which are funded under Section 38 and Section 39 of the Health Act 2004. Some of these organisations can be characterised as systemically challenged in terms of financial sustainability. This was the case prior to the onset of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

It is important to note that the HSE, prior to COVID-19, put measures in place in order to support vulnerable provider organisations, including delivery of a national service improvement programme. Additionally, the HSE and the Department of Health were developing options in terms of immediate as well as long-term policy considerations.

During the current public health emergency, the HSE has developed and circulated Financial Guidance re COVID Related Expenditure & Section 38/39 Provider Organisations, the purpose of which is to provide guidance to CHOs regarding potential service and related financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic for providers delivering 'essential' or 'core' Health and Social Care services during the COVID-19 Emergency Response. Please note that the guidance is temporary and remains applicable for the duration of the emergency only.

From a national perspective, a total of over €3 million additional financial support was given amongst some Section 39s in the period March to May 2020. This support was given as per norm and is separate to any COVID-19 issues

Supports provided by CHOs to S39 organisations during the period from March to May 2020 include the following:

- PPE continues to be provided to all funded agencies.



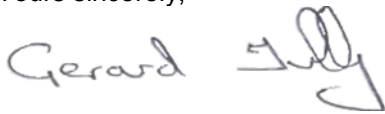
Building a Better Health Service

CARE COMPASSION TRUST LEARNING

- Infection Prevention and Control support, advise and training continues.
- Public Health advise/support is ongoing with regard to suspected/positive cases.
- Residential Preparedness Groups
- Facilitating the testing of all residential staff.
- A COVID response Team to assist and support residential service providers. This team will now oversee and support the reshaping of disability services as a result of COVID 19.
- Funding for emergency residential placements
- A weekly or now bi-weekly call/forum with all funded agencies to support them throughout the duration of the crisis
- Accommodation;
- Logistics in the form of transport.

With regard to funding, CHOs are having ongoing discussions in general with some of the S39 organisations in their areas. While additional funding has been agreed in some areas, in the main, additional funding has yet to be disbursed in this regard as a period of review, analysis and validation is required to determine the legitimate necessity for additional funding above 2020 pre-COVID agreed levels.

Yours sincerely,



**Gerry Tully,**  
**Acting Head of Operations - Disability Services,**  
**Community Operations**