



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Oifig an tUas. Pat Bennett,  
Príomhoifigeach, Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte  
Pobail, Lár Tíre, An Lú, An Mhí  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Oifig  
Cheantair, Bóthar Ardáin, An Tulach  
Mhór, Co. Uíbh Fhailí.

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3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2020

Mr. Sean Fleming T.D.,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**Re: Parliamentary Question – 5173/20**

To ask the Minister for Health the social worker availability for persons with a disability over 55 but not yet 65 years of age in Portlaoise, County Laois (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

-Sean Fleming

(Details) - where I understand there is a facility available for a social worker for people with a disability over 65 where many people require occupational therapy and physio under this age

Dear Deputy Fleming,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and outline the position as follows.

I have consulted relevant colleagues and can confirm that referral for social work services are made via Primary Care for all persons. Where an individual has a specific need in regard to complex disability related issues the referral should be directed to HSE Disability Services who will advise on the appropriate pathway for the referral.

It is acknowledged that HSE Disability Services Laois/Offaly do not have adequate resources to meet the needs of all persons with disabilities requiring social work support. Additional resources to address the identified deficit have been submitted via the National Estimates Process. The Disability Manager is committed to working with colleagues in Disability Services and Primary Care to provide social work services to all persons with disabilities who require it until such time as funding is allocated to meet the identified need.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

Pat Bennett  
Chief Officer CHO Area 8