



Ceann na Seirbhíse Míchumas  
Eagraíocht Chúram Sláinte Limistéar 1  
(An Cabhán, Dún na nGall, Liatroim, Muineachán & Sligeach)  
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20<sup>th</sup> November, 2020

Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 36827/20 - The Bluestack Special Needs Foundation centre based in Donegal Town and the iCare centre based in Buncrana, Co. Donegal**

**To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that organisations (details supplied) have only received a fraction of the budget they require from the HSE over recent years to provide vital disability support services to families across County Donegal; and the actions that will follow after the meeting between the managers of the organisations and the Minister of State with responsibility for Disability on 11 November 2020.**

Dear Deputy Mac Lochlainn,

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 the following outlines the position.

The HSE provides annual core funding of €36,000 to both the iCARE and Bluestack Foundation through the Donegal Intellectual Disability Service. In addition, the HSE entered an arrangement with iCARE for 2020 to provide an Adult Disability Day Service to an identified number of service users. The initial annual grant aid for this service was €60,000, and this has now increased by a further €11,600 from September to December 2020 to deliver a service to an additional service user referred to the service.

Based on the existing service level, both Bluestack Foundation and iCARE will continue to be funded the core annual amount of €36,000. The HSE will be engaging shortly with these agencies to finalise the 2021 Grant Aid Agreement.

A briefing on both organisations was provided by my office to Minister Rabbitte's office in advance of her meeting with the representatives from iCARE and the Bluestack Foundation on 11th November, 2020. As per Minister Rabbitte's invitation I was also in attendance at the meeting as were Minister Charlie McConalogue and a representative for Deputy Joe McHugh. The organisations had requested to meet with the Minister to address deficits in their core funding.

From a CHO1 perspective, I indicated that the HSE had good working relationships with both organisations and that funding provided to both organisations was what was available within the CHO's Disability Service budget allocation. It was acknowledged that additional funding can be provided by the HSE to these organisations when funding streams allow for same, but these streams are for defined purposes and are not for core funding requirements within these organisations. Minister Rabbitte concluded the meeting by indicating that she would be in touch with HSE CHO1 following the meeting. To date, no further communication has issued from the Minister's office.

I trust that this is of assistance but please do not hesitate to contact me if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely



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**Edel Quinn**  
**Head of Service Disability CHO1**  
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