



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Head of Service,
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9th October, 2020

**Deputy Kieran O'Donnell,
Constituency Office,
32 Upper Mallow Street,
Limerick**

RE: PQ 29706/220

To ask the Minister for Health the status of a funding application for the reopening of day services (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter

Daughters of Charity, St. Vincents, Lisnagry, Co. Limerick Application for Covid 19 HSE Funding to re-open a 5 days per week, full-time Day Service for Service Users.

Dear Deputy O'Donnell

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 is the HSE's position.

I can confirm that the HSE is well aware of the difficulties, challenges and anxiety that Service Users, Parents/Carers and Families have experienced throughout Covid 19, particularly during lock down when many services were closed.

In line with Public Health guidance and the "Framework for Resumption of Adult Disability Services" which set out clear guidelines around the reopening of day services in a safe way, the Daughters of Charity Services resumed their day services at the beginning of September 2020.

However in complying with public health guidance and the need to keep all service users safe, it has been necessary to reduce capacity across all day services whilst at the same time ensuring that all service users were provided with a level of service. It should be pointed out that the redeployment of day service staff to support those residing in residential services in some Agencies has also impacted. This in effect has meant that some service users are receiving a reduced day service compared to the level of service they received pre Covid 19. In addition, there is a requirement to prioritise the quantum of service that is required by those service users with the greatest need. All individual cases are looked at on a case by case basis in terms of their need for additional supports.

I can confirm the Daughters of Charity Services have submitted their resource requirements to the HSE as have other Service Providers in order to resume Day Services to full capacity. In relation to funding, I am pleased to advise that an additional allocation of € 7.5million has recently been made available by the Department of Health to support the resumption of day services across the Disability Sector with HSE Mid-West being notified of its share of the allocation. As a result of this allocation, it is anticipated that service users will experience an increase in the level of day service currently being provided to them.

It should also be mentioned that clarification has recently been provided by the Office of the Strategy and Planning, Disability Services in relation to the 1m/ 2m physical distancing rule and its application to Disability Services. My understanding is that guidance in relation to this change is to issue shortly from the National Office but subject to the appropriate risk assessments being carried out, I imagine that this should also assist in increasing capacity within Day Centres and in the use of transport.

I trust this information is of assistance but should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Maurice Hoare
Head of Service, Disability Services
HSE Mid West Community Healthcare