



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,  
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,  
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

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12<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Deputy Claire Kerrane,  
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Dublin 2.  
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Dear Deputy Kerrane,

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 15975/21**

*To ask the Minister for Health the number of business plans received by the HSE seeking funding for persons with disabilities including intellectual disabilities in each of the years 2017 to 2020 and to date in 2021, by county; the number of these business plans that were made for children; the corresponding number of same approved for funding; the number which are outstanding in which no funding has been approved in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

#### **HSE Response**

On an annual basis, prior to the publication of the HSE National Service Plan, the HSE participates in the Estimates Process with the Department of Health and makes a submission for additional funding to meet the health and social care needs of the population it services. The Disability Service makes submissions for additional funding for Day, Residential, Respite, Home Support/PA hours, Multi-Disciplinary Posts and Neuro-Rehabilitation as a key element of its submission.

The HSE National Service Plan 2021 details the levels of service to be provided during 2021 and over two billion euro in funding has been allocated this year to the Disability Service for the provision of these services. Funding secured is allocated to each of the Community Healthcare Organisation Areas (CHOs) to carry out the provision of services as outlined in each CHO's Annual Operational Plan.

The HSE works in partnership with organisations including Section 38, Section 39, Out of State and For Profit organisations to ensure the best level of service possible is provided to people with a disability, and their families, within the available resources. The majority of specialised disability provision (80%) is delivered through non-statutory sector service providers.

Disability services are provided based on the needs of an individual rather than by the actual type of disability or service required and many organisations provide services to both children and adults with intellectual disabilities or with other forms of disability. Many agencies provide ID services and supports to people and families without distinguishing these supports from their general support services being provided.

The HSE acknowledges the role and contribution of non-statutory agencies in the development and provision of health and personal social services and is committed to the development of effective working relationships as enacted by the Health Act 2004.

The HSE has established a Governance Framework to cover funding relationships with all Non Statutory Agencies. The framework was introduced in order to implement the legislative provisions of the Health Act, 2004 and to reflect the requirements for public accountability whereby the HSE is legally obliged to account for all public expenditure on health and personal social services.

In 2020, the HSE had approximately 1,060 funded Service Arrangements or Grant Aid Agreements with approximately 419 organisations across all CHO areas providing a wide variety of disability services on behalf of the HSE. These Service Arrangements and Grant Aid Agreements are negotiated by each CHO area and are covered by this Governance Framework.

Services and organisations routinely submit business plans to Disability Managers or the Chief Officers of each CHO area. Business plans vary across a range of parameters from degree of funding and resources required and whether they are operational or strategic. In the main, business plans are dealt with at local CHO level. For example, with regard to home care or additional hours of support required by a service user(s), Home Care Forums or Case/ Disability Managers may approve Home Support hours within existing funding levels, or through business cases escalated to the Head of Disability or other appropriate management structure. Approval is generally based on clinical assessed needs and priority scoring. Applications requiring approval are subject to available resources and are reviewed and validated with finance colleagues.

The allocation of resources is based on clinical risk and need and available resources. There is generally a formal process of prioritisation in CHO Areas that ensures that business cases are reviewed and escalated, as appropriate. These would include the Head of Disability Service, but may also be escalated to the Chief Officer or even the National Disability Office depending on the level of additional funding required.

It is within this context as outlined above, that it is not possible to provide the number of business plans received by the HSE seeking funding for persons with disabilities including intellectual disabilities.

The HSE has worked collaboratively with the Department of Health in undertaking a Capacity Review of the Disability Sector to provide the framework within which services could develop over the coming decade. The HSE is aware that the Review accepts that significant investment across all service types in the disability sector over the coming 15-year period is required in tandem with a fundamental programme of reform regarding existing delivery models. The HSE understands that Multi-Annual Investment is necessary in order to respond to un-met need.

Yours sincerely,



**Dr. Cathal Morgan,  
Head of Operations - Disability Services,  
Community Operations**