



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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

Office of the Head of Operations,  
Disability Services/Community Operations,  
31-33 Catherine Street, Limerick.

T: 00353 (0) 61 483369

Suíomh Gréasáin/Website: <http://www.hse.ie>

28<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Deputy Michael Moynihan,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
e-mail: [michael.moynihan@oireachtas.ie](mailto:michael.moynihan@oireachtas.ie)

Dear Deputy Moynihan,

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 48708/21**

*To ask the Minister for Health the supports provided to assist adult day services for persons with disabilities to return to full capacity by 22 October 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

#### **HSE Response**

Since the onset of COVID 19 in March 2020, the HSE has put in place a robust structure and resource allocation to support the reopening of day service locations in August 2020 and to oversee the gradual restoration of full day services by October 2021.

A Day Service Resumption Group representative of all stakeholders was established in May 2020. The focus of this group was to plan for the reopening of day service locations in August 2020 and to develop and implement the appropriate guidance and protocols to address, in the first instance, the priority needs of the approx. 19,000 adults that access day services and more recently to plan for the full restoration of this service. This group also tracked the level of service being provided to adults and the increase in the level of service from the time that day service locations reopened in August 2020 to the current day.

Guidance in line with Public Health Guidance was developed in June 2020 and as changes have occurred in the Public Health Guidance, the guidance for day services has been updated. A communication plan to ensure that all families, service users and service providers were communicated with during this period was also developed and implemented.

Following from the publication of the Government's "Reframing the Challenge, Continuing Our Recovery and Reconnecting"; all day service providers were asked to prepare plans for the full restoration of adult disability day services by October 22nd. All service providers have indicated their commitment to the process.

When full service is restored, the infection prevention and control measures that have been put in place to support the resumption of services will still be in place after October 22nd in line with the Government's Roadmap. These include:-

- Service User and Day Service Location Risk Assessments
- Service User Training in managing COVID 19
- Staff Training in managing COVID 19
- Protocols to support the Health and Wellbeing of Service Users and Staff
- Enhanced environmental hygiene - maintenance and cleaning of Day Service Locations
- Pod like arrangements in Day Service Locations (6 people or less)
- Enhanced environmental hygiene - maintenance and cleaning of Day Service Transport
- Infection Control Measures including PPE
- Protocols to ensure that all people entering Day Service Locations and Day Service Transport are COVID free
- Protocols for the management of suspected and confirmed cases of COVID 19
- Provision of information to the HSE to track the activity of COVID 19

Please see the link below which provides information and leaflets regarding the resumption of Adult Disability Day Services Locations in each Community Healthcare Area.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/disability/newdirections/resumption-of-adult-day-services-for-adults-with-disabilities.html>

Significant funding was allocated to support the resumption and restoration of adult disability day services during COVID-19 as follows:

#### 2020

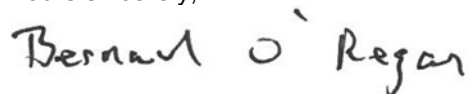
- An amount of €5m was allocated in recognition of additional locations required to support service users, the need for IT equipment to support remote service provision and to cover the costs of increased transport journeys due to social distancing guidelines.
- An amount of €7.5m was allocated to provide additional staffing to enable day service staff that had been redeployed to residential services to return to their day service locations and maximise the service provided at those locations.
- Funding was also provided to service providers for the additional costs relating to increased infection prevention and control measures and PPE.

#### 2021

- An additional €30m was allocated for the additional staffing funded in 2020. This funding covers the staffing for a full year period until December 31st 2021.
- An amount of €17.4m was allocated in 2021 to provide new day placements for young people leaving school and rehabilitative training programmes that require a HSE funded day service.

Whilst some service users have not resumed their full service due to their concerns and anxiety regarding COVID 19, the majority of service providers have confirmed that those service users that want to have their full service restored are being facilitated where possible. The recruitment and retention of staff has posed a significant challenge for all day service providers in the restoration of full services.

Yours sincerely,



**Bernard O'Regan**  
**Head of Operations - Disability Services,**  
**Community Operations**