



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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Disability Services/Community Operations,
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3rd November 2021

Deputy Jennifer Whitmore
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
e-mail: jennifer.whitmore@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Whitmore,

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: 51023/21

To ask the Minister for Health the reason only one week was given for organisations to apply for the €1 million provided for sensory gardens announced on 5 October 2021 with a deadline of 12 October 2021; if he plans to extend the timeframe for applications; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ: 51024/21

To ask the Minister for Health if schools can apply for funding under the recently announced €1 million provided for sensory gardens; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

Bernard said he would do a response

On the 5th October 2021, Minister of State for Disability, Anne Rabbitte TD, announced a fund of €1 million to fund the development of sensory gardens to benefit children and adults with disabilities.

Sensory gardens include features, surfaces, objects and plants that stimulate our senses through touch, sight, scent, taste and hearing.

A call for submissions was issued, allowing voluntary organisations funded under Section 38 and 39 of the Health Act to apply for funding for the development of these gardens.

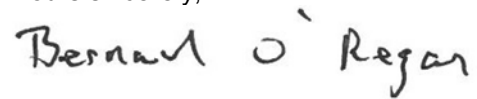
It is important to note that organisations applying for funding for this project must be funded under Section 38 and 39 of the Health Act 2004 and the application for funding for a sensory garden project must be associated with existing facilities used to provide disability services such as residential, respite or day services.

The closing date for proposals was determined by the requirement to ensure that funding is released to approved projects in the current year.

Over 220 applications for Funding for Sensory Gardens has been received by the HSE, many of which have a range of projects within the application.

Applications are currently being reviewed and the HSE is working towards communicating decisions by mid-November 2021.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernard O'Regan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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