



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

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

T: 00353 (0) 61 483369

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

22nd February 2022

Deputy Alan Dillon
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: alan.dillon@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Dillon

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 7450/22

To ask the Minister for Health if another round of the fund to develop sensory gardens will be opened; if so, when new applications will be accepted; if similar funding streams are currently open to applications; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE 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.

Organisations applying for funding for this project had to be funded under Section 38 and 39 of the Health Act 2004 and the application for funding for a sensory garden project had to 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 was released to approved projects in the 2021 financial year.

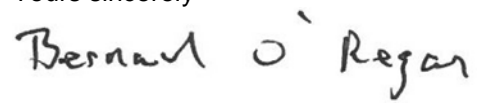
Over 220 applications for Funding for Sensory Gardens were received by the HSE, many of which had a range of projects within the application.

Applications were reviewed by the HSE and decisions communicated to the organisations by mid-November 2021.



With regard to the question asked, the HSE is awaiting publication of the 2022 National Service Plan, following which another round of funding will be available.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernard O'Regan". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Bernard" and last name "Regan" clearly legible, and "O'" written as a small circle with an apostrophe.

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