

Ms Niamh Smyth T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

10th May 2022

Re: PQ ref 21676/22 - Hydrotherapy Pool, Enable Irl Cavan - DSPQ22005

Details

HYDROTHERAPY POOL AT ENABLE IRELAND IN CAVAN - NOT OPEN - NEEDS FUNDING

“To ask the Minister for Health the reason that a hydrotherapy pool at Enable Ireland in Cavan is not open; if his Department will grant funding for same; if an application from the organisation has been received regarding the pool; and if he will make a statement on the matter.” – Niamh Smyth T.D.

Dear Deputy Smyth,

I refer to your recent correspondence received in my office in relation to the Hydrotherapy Pool at Enable Ireland, Cavan. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Service Manager for Enable Ireland North East Services has advised that Enable Ireland commissioned the completion of a hydrotherapy pool for its children’s service in Cavan in 2018. The capital cost of building the pool was covered by a mix of fundraising and HSE income. Enable Ireland has acknowledged its appreciation to the local community for their support of this project.

With approval from the HSE, using related savings Enable Ireland recruited a part-time pool attendant in late 2018 and the pool was operational for a period. Unfortunately, the post holder left the position in 2019 and the pool remained closed throughout 2019 due to funding issues and the inability to replace the post holder. All Enable Ireland pools were then closed in accordance with public health guidance throughout 2020 and 2021 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Enable Ireland has submitted a business case to the HSE which is currently going through the business case process. Funding to cover pay costs for a full time pool attendant post and non-pay running costs of the pool are being sought. HSE Community Healthcare Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo Disability Services will seek to have the necessary funding provided in its 2023 budget allocation through its submission to national HSE via the Estimates Process Remedial works to the pool are currently being progressed on the pool through Enable Ireland funding.



Enable Ireland will also explore opportunities for providing access to the pool to other groups in the area and to have the pool available for evenings and weekends. It is intended that income generated from this extended usage will support the upkeep and maintenance of the pool.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edel Quinn', written in a cursive style.

Edel Quinn
Head of Service Disability CHO1
Ceann na Seirbhíse Míchumas
Eagraíocht Chúram Sláinte Limistéar 1