



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

Office of the Head of Operations,
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20th October 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: 50423/22

“To ask the Minister for Health the funding that has been provided for MS sufferers in Budget 2023; if he has included a request by an organisation (details supplied) for additional funding from the HSE to provide an additional 1220 additional bed nights at a centre; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Details supplied: MS Ireland's; the MS Care Centre

HSE Response

Services for Persons with Multiple Sclerosis

Disability services are provided based on the presenting needs of an individual rather than by the diagnosis of the individual or the actual type of disability or service required. Services are provided following individual assessment according to the person's individual requirements and care needs.

The role of the HSE is to provide a multi-disciplinary team approach which includes the provision of health and personal supports required by people with multiple sclerosis and incorporates hospital, primary care and community services.

The HSE funds a range of community services and supports to enable each individual with a disability, including persons with multiple sclerosis, to achieve his or her full potential and maximise independence, including living as independently as possible. Services are provided in a variety of community and residential settings in partnership with service users, their families and carers and a range of statutory, non-statutory, voluntary and community groups. Services are provided either directly by the HSE or through a range of voluntary service providers. Voluntary agencies provide the majority of services in partnership with and on behalf of the Health Service Executive.



The range of community services and supports provided to people with a disability including multiple sclerosis include for example assisted living services (PA and Home Support), Therapy Services, Aids and appliances and Respite Services.

In addition, the aim of the HSE's Neuro-Rehabilitation Strategy Implementation Framework (IF) is the development of neuro-rehabilitation services to improve patient outcomes by providing safe, high quality, person-centred neuro-rehabilitation at the lowest appropriate level of complexity. This must be integrated across the care pathway, and provided as close to home as possible or in specialist centres where necessary. These services are to be configured into population based managed clinical rehabilitation networks (MCRNs).

The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland (MS Ireland)

MS Ireland provides a range of services and resources to the whole MS Community; those with MS, family members, employers and Health professionals. Through its Regional Community Workers, MS Ireland organises a range of Living with MS programmes, workshops and activities throughout the country that are targeted at various groups such as those newly diagnosed, carers, children of parents with MS and health professionals. Programmes include physical therapies, symptom management and information/ education seminars.

MS Ireland provides services at a local and national level. Locally their team of regional workers provide one-to-one and group support and their 39 voluntary branches provide opportunities to socialise, share experiences and avail of services. MS Ireland also operates a confidential helpline that provides immediate information and support to those affected by MS.

MS Ireland receives funding from the HSE under section 39 of the Health Act 2004. Additional funding is also received through the National Lottery. In 2021, MS Ireland received €2,631,412 in funding from the HSE.

Additional funding requests for further investment in the MS Care Centre, Rathgar would be made in the first instance to the local Community Healthcare Area.

Funding for services in 2023

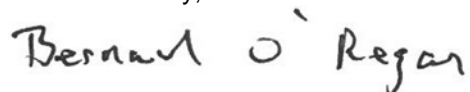
Each year the HSE participates in the Estimates Process with the Department of Health and makes a submission for additional monies to meet the health and social care needs of the population it services.

The Disability Service makes submissions for additional funding for Day, Residential, Respite, Home Support/PA hours, Multi Disciplinary Posts and Neuro Rehab monies as a key element of its submission. Any new funding secured is allocated to the CHOs to provide services to those with the greatest need (priority basis).

The HSE makes every effort to secure multi-annual investment for services via the Estimates process and is very conscious of the need to deliver disability policy on a more sustainable footing given the significant levels of need for increased and more effective services and supports to enable people with a disability to live independent lives in their own community.

It is important to note that the HSE has not, as yet, received a formal letter of Decision regarding funding for specific service developments.

Yours Sincerely,



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

