

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023

Brendan Smith T.D.  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ Ref. 7591/23**

**The need to provide training/education places for young persons with autism who have completed 4 years in attendance at a training centre such as Drumlin House Training Centre, Cootehill, Co Cavan**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of education and or training places that are available for young persons with autism who have completed a course at a training course ; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Smith,

Persons with a primary disability or autism diagnosis, aged 18 years and over can access HSE funded Adult Day Services. Such services must be provided in line with HSE policy and are governed by the HSE at local Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) level. Each person accessing a service should have Person Centred Plan (PCP) developed with them and be supported to achieve that plan

The current HSE day service policy – New Directions – aims to support adults with disabilities to access a whole range of community based services. The majority of those in receipt of day service supports will have a requirement for these supports throughout their lifetime.

However Rehabilitative Training (RT) which you refer to is one element of day services that supports progression. The RT Programmes are designed and targeted at specific groups, including people with autism and trainees on RT Programmes can attend programmes for up to 4 years. RT is a time limited development programme that is designed to equip participants with personal, social and work related skills that will enable them to progress to greater levels of independence and integration in the community. Some programmes have up to Level 3 QQI Certification and many people progress on to mainstream education and/or training programmes. If mainstream training and/or education is not an option all RT leavers have the option to transition to a HSE funded adult day service. Support to access education, training and employment is dependent on each individual's ability.

RT Programmes and Modules may include:

- Social Skills
- Independent Living
- Work Experience
- Work related Social Skills
- Work related Money Management



- Time Management
- IT Skills
- Community Information
- Travel Training

Once commenced in education and/or mainstream training the Department of Education provide for the needs of the individual. The Education Training Board (ETB), for example, may provide for the training needs.

In HSE Community Healthcare Cavan Donegal Leitrim Monaghan and Sligo there are five organisations providing 207 RT places across twelve locations. Approximately 20% of people attending these programmes have an autism diagnosis.

In summary the HSE provide one structured training programme, RT, within the overall HSE funded Adult Day Service provision. In keeping with policy, adult day services provide the supports required to access mainstream education, training and other mainstream community activities. If accessing mainstream education is not an option post RT, people can choose to transition to a HSE funded adult day service.

I trust that this is of assistance but please do not hesitate to contact me if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Edel Quinn'.

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**Edel Quinn**  
**Head of Service Disability CH CDLMS**  
**Ceann na Seirbhíse Míchumas**  
**Eagraíocht Chúram Sláinte Limistéar CDLMS**