



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.

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2nd February 2023

Deputy Pearse Doherty,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: pearse.doherty@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Doherty,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary questions, which were submitted to this department for response.

PQ: 3551/23

To ask the Minister for Health the positions in HSE intellectual disability services that applicants with a driving conviction are disqualified from and fail to meet the criteria; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ: 3552/23

To ask the Minister for Health the roles in HSE intellectual disability services that one is not required to have access to a vehicle for in order to hold a position; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

The Health Service is the largest employer in the state with a headcount of 156,285 (137,745 wte) employed at the end of December 2022. This includes staff directly employed in the Health Service Executive (HSE) and S38 organisations. There are many more thousands of staff employed by voluntary organisations funded under S39 of the Health Act 2004.

Staff work in a wide variety of service areas including Acute Services, Disability Services, Primary Care, Mental Health Services and in many other areas.

The HSE offers a wide range of choice and career opportunities that enable staff to make an important contribution to the health services, to public service, to patients and service users and to the lives of everyone living in Ireland.

Please refer to the following link for further information:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/jobs/>

Disability Services are delivered through HSE services, Section 38, Section 39 and for-profit providers. The range of specialist disability services that are provided to 60,000 people with physical, sensory, intellectual



disabilities and autism spans residential care, respite care, home support and personal assistant services, clinical and allied therapies, neuro-rehabilitation services, day services and rehabilitative training.

A wide variety of staff grades and roles are in place to provide these services to people with disabilities.

The requirements associated with the wide and varied roles in HSE Disability Services are set out in the job specification. All candidates must demonstrate that they meet the requirements of the role as set out.

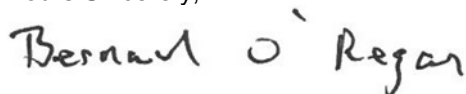
Non possession of a driving licence does not preclude someone from applying for a role in HSE Disability services.

However, as Specialist Disability Services focus on providing supports to people with complex disabilities, it is not possible to preclude any service or role in HSE Disability Services from the requirement that staff may require a driving licence. Therefore, in that context, it is important that candidates examine the requirements for the roles advertised.

The HSE carries out Garda Vetting Clearance on all new employees where their role is engaged in relevant work (for example; access to, or contact with, children or vulnerable adults). New employees engaging in relevant work will not take up duty until the Garda Vetting Clearance process has been completed and the HSE is satisfied that such an appointment does not pose a risk to clients, service users and employees.

It is important to note that as part of the Garda Vetting process, an applicant must disclose any and all convictions. This disclosure must include such offences as driving offences, non-payment of a TV licence and public order offences, and includes the application of probation or community service. This covers offences in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Yours Sincerely,



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

