



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Cúnta Náisiúnta  
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**Deputy John Lahart**

**Dáil Eireann,**

**Leinster House,**

**Kildare Street,**

**Dublin 2.**

**Date 23/02/24**

**PQ 5283/24- To ask the Minister for Health to give details in relation to when the new dementia specific weekend day centres are intended to be operational; the locations of same and how carer's/those suffering with dementia can avail of this new and exciting service; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Lahart,

I refer to your parliamentary question, which was passed to the HSE for response.

The Alzheimer's Society of Ireland (ASI) is currently finalising arrangements in relation to the design of appropriate day services for people with either Young Onset Dementia (YOD) or Early Stage Dementia (ESD).

#### [Young-Onset Dementia](#)

YOD occurs when a person is diagnosed with dementia before the age of 65. It is sometimes referred to as 'early-onset dementia' however there is consensus that 'young-onset dementia' is the preferred and accepted term. Although Alzheimer's disease is the most common subtype of YOD, a lower proportion of cases are due to Alzheimer's disease in YOD than in Late Onset Dementia (LOD), with a much higher proportion of FTD and other dementias, associated with non-amnesic presentations.

#### [Early-Stage Dementia](#)

The progression of dementia is typically characterised by stages (early, middle and late), which are a loose guide for how advanced a person's symptoms are. Early-stage dementia refers to when a person's symptoms are relatively mild and not widely apparent, but family and close friends may notice.



The design of this service is based on best national and international evidence. In terms of funding, ASI have secured once off funding of €300,000 as part of Budget 2024 to pilot this initiative.

The initial design phase has now been completed culminating in a desktop research project to define the types of services in place nationally and internationally for this cohort. This report will now be considered by a working group to identify how the findings may be applied to the Irish context by ASI. This will include identifying appropriate interventions and services based on the staffing requirements, location and need across the country.

This work should be completed by Q2, 2024 with an indicative commencement date of September 2024 for the service. The approach being taken is to utilise this discrete funding on a proof of concept basis with a view to subsequent validation.

I trust this is of assistance.

**Yours sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Crowley', written over a horizontal line.

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**Geraldine Crowley,  
Assistant National Director,  
Enhanced Community Care Programme &  
Primary Care Contracts**