



Oifig an Stiúrthóir Cúnta Náisiúnta,
Foireann Míchumais Náisiúnta,
An Chéad Urlár - Oifigí 13, 14, 15,
Áras Phlásóg na Rós, Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,
Páirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta,
Caladh an Treoigh,
Luimneach.

Office of the Assistant National Director,
National Disability Team,
First Floor- Offices 13, 14, 15,
Roselawn House, University Business Complex,
National Technology Park,
Castletroy,
Limerick.

18th October 2024

Deputy Willie O'Dea,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: willie.odea@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy O'Dea,

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: 39486/24

To ask the Minister for Health if there are specific criteria when the HSE is making a decision to allow assisted transport to children with a disability who are attending training centres; if so, if the criteria have been published; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ: 39526/24

To ask the Minister for Health if there are specific criteria when the HSE is making a decision to allow assisted transport to children with a disability who are attending training centres; if so, if the criteria have been published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -

HSE Response

The provision of transport services is not part of core services within disability services. As a general rule public transport should be used in all circumstances where it is an option. This is in keeping with the principle of mainstreaming with a clear focus on ensuring persons with a disability have access to the normal range of services and participate in community life as far as possible. It must be noted that in general, many people with a disability are in receipt of disability allowance and are automatically entitled to the Free Travel Pass.

With regard to children attending training centres, if the particular query concerns school, the HSE is not funded to provide school transportation. This falls within the remit of the Department of Education.



If the query concerns Day Services or Rehabilitative training, the issue for Day Services is that transport is not included in the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth funding for adult disability services and they are working to address this.

We recognise that public transport options are not always available to many people throughout the country.

Acknowledging the need for appropriate accessible transport without which some people would not be able to access day services, the HSE works collaboratively with Day Service providers, the people attending the service and their families to find viable transport solutions. Many families transport their family member to and from disability services each day.

The HSE is aware that:

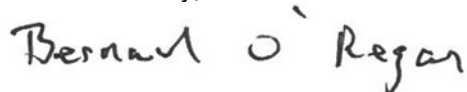
- 84% of over 1,500 school leavers and RT leavers require some assistance with transport from provider or family or other.
- Approximately 20% of School Leavers referred to HSE each year require specialised transport and additional supports. This cohort are not in a position to travel independently on public transport, should it be available.
- 16% of 2023 School Leavers can travel independently to their day service location having received some Travel Training. They either live within walking distance of the location, or have access to a public transport route from their home to the day service location.
- 61 school leavers nationally, cited transport as the reason for non-agreement/non commencement of service in 2023. Negotiations for 2024 school leavers is currently under way, however, availability of transport has been cited as one the largest obstacles to young people when trying to access day services.

Some service providers have built up their own transport fleet that provides the necessary transport to people attending their services. Third party contracted transport, which may require a contribution from the person, has been negotiated in many areas, for example, Local Link in CHO 1 is supplemented by a contribution from each transport user.

With regard to specific criteria regarding service users who require specialised transport and additional supports, the local HSE Disability Services ensure that the unique needs and requirements of the child/individual is appropriately assessed in the context of the individual circumstances of that child and within allocated resources.

Disability Services continue to escalate as appropriate the issues of additional costs in relation to transport for all Disability Services Users.

Yours Sincerely,



Bernard O'Regan
Assistant National Director
National Disability Team

