



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,

15^h April 2025

Deputy Eamon Scanlon,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: eamon.scanlon@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Scanlon,

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: 17757/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if persons with disabilities are charged for the use of day services; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ: 17758/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if there are transport charges for persons with disabilities using day services; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response:

Day Services are a key component of support services that enable people to live within the community. The New Directions Policy, which was published in 2013, outlines the manner in which adults with disabilities receive disability day services. This policy is underpinned by the values of person centredness, community inclusion, active citizenship and quality.

This policy is in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities which articulate the rights of people with disabilities to avail of the whole range of public services that are available to all citizens of the state. The guiding principle for HSE funded day services is that supports will be tailored to individual need and will be flexible, responsive and person-centred.

People are not charged for the use of HSE funded adult day services. The HSE fund on an annual basis 97 provider organisations to provide day service supports in line with New Directions Policy and UNCPRD to over 21,000 people nationally.



With regard to transport provision to attend Disability Day Services, 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.

The HSE recognise that public transport options are not always available to many people throughout the country. In 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. 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 was negotiated in some areas. For example in the CHO 1 area, local transport operators on behalf of the HSE were commissioned with providing bus or taxi services to facilitate people attend their day services, which were not accessible via public transport routes, to assist individuals and their families who had difficulty in accessing day services in rural areas. These are classed as 'Closed Routes'. All day service passengers in these areas were asked to pay a €4 fee on closed HSE transport routes as a contribution to the overall transport costs. This payment is currently under review. The HSE supplements over 90% of travel charges for day service users across counties in the CHO 1 area.

In December, 2024 the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth provided sanction for a once-off measure of €3.6 million funding to be used for the upgrade/replacement of transport vehicles in day services.

Building on a similar approach to addressing the issue of ageing vehicles in disability residential and respite services in 2021, this funding was specifically aimed at supporting the provision of vehicles for transport to day services where other transport solutions are not available and where an ageing fleet exists.

Yours Sincerely,

Gerard Tully
Assistant National Director,
Adult Disability Services
Access and integration,

