



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.

23rd May 2025

Deputy Conor D McGuinness,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: conord.mcguinness@oireachtas.ie

PQ: 20196/25

To ask the Minister for Health the number of HSE-funded hydrotherapy pools available for public use; and the locations of these pools, in tabular form.

Response

Dear Deputy McGuinness,

Thank you for your Parliamentary Question referenced above, which has been forwarded to me for direct reply.

The aim of Hydrotherapy is to help people affected by adverse health conditions to improve their physical function and wellbeing. Hydrotherapy is a treatment used by physiotherapists to manage a range of physical conditions including arthritis, rheumatological conditions, neurological disease, musculoskeletal conditions, orthopaedic conditions, balance impairments and chronic pain.

The management and the safe operation of pools, including hydrotherapy pools, involves the provision of well trained staff and strict adherence to infection control and cleaning procedures, fire safety, health and safety and environmental regulations and procedures, safe water management, including water quality and chemical balance level requirements.

Hydrotherapy pools in Ireland are either operated by the HSE or Service Providers funded by the HSE including the CRC. There are also privately run hydrotherapy pools.

Outside of hydrotherapy pools, all pools should be accessible in line with UNCRPD. Efforts have been made nationally in recent years with grants to make public pools more accessible to persons with disabilities.

Hydrotherapy pools are not available in all parts of the country. According to the Office of the Chief Clinical Officer, it may be preferable and appropriate if people were able to move from a higher cost, controlled therapy environment in a hydrotherapy pool to self-manage with some supports in public and community pools in an integrated way.

Service Plan 2025

As per the 2025 Service Plan, focus for Specialist Community-Based Disability Services will be on a number of key areas which include:

- Targeted services to benefit children and adults, including hydrotherapy pools. Funding of €0.5m has been allocated to refurbish, operationalise and staff existing hydrotherapy pools that are currently closed.

Location of the HSE funded Hydrotherapy Pools

The HSE funds a range of hospital and community services and supports to enable individuals with a disability to achieve their full potential and maximise independence. Services are provided in a variety of community and residential settings in partnership with service users, their families and carers and a range of statutory and non-statutory service providers. Services are provided either directly by the HSE or through a range of voluntary service providers. Voluntary agencies provide the majority of services in partnership with and on behalf of the Health Service Executive.



Hydrotherapy pools in Ireland are either operated by the HSE or Service Providers funded by the HSE. Examples of areas that have provided hydrotherapy pool services are as follows;

Enable Ireland have operated hydrotherapy pools throughout the country in Counties Cavan, Kilkenny, Dublin, Wicklow, Kildare.

In addition, the Brothers of Charity Services Ireland - John Paul Service Ballybane Galway have a hydrotherapy pool.

Other Hydrotherapy pools in operation

Based on information that the HSE has received in the past two years from the different Community Health Care areas, these include as follows;

- Central Remedial Clinic, Clontarf, Dublin,
- St. Gabriel's School and Centre, Limerick,
- Daughters of Charity, St. Vincent's Centre, Co. Limerick,
- St. Anne's School Roscrea, Co. Tipperary,
- Holy Angels Day Care Centre, Carlow,
- St. John of Gods Carmona Services, Dun Laoghaire,
- Cheeverstown, Dublin,
- St. John of Gods, Dublin.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Aoife O'Donohue,
Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta Cúntóir, Seirbhísí Mhíchumas, Rochtain agus Imeascadh,
Assistant National Director, Disability Services, Transformation & Programme Coordination, Access & Integration