



**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.

3rd June 2025

Deputy Pádraig Rice
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: padraig.rice@oireachtas.ie

PQ: 20409/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth to respond to matters raised in correspondence (details supplied); to outline the manner in which such funding is managed and accounted for; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Details supplied: I received correspondence in which it is maintained that the HSE allocated specific funding to the Brothers of Charity to provide a bespoke service to an adult with ASD. However, I understand that the Brothers of Charity were never in a position to provide the full allocation of hours of service to this individual. There were further issues of staffing - this individual was allocated a service of two support workers and staff shortages meant the individual rarely had two support workers with him. The individual was availing of an individual bespoke service, not a group service. The service the HSE allocated funding for was not provided. In view of this, can you please outline the Department's protocol to deal with such situations.

HSE Response

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

HSE Disability Services is allocated funding on an annual basis to provide a range of services throughout the country. Funding is spent in line with nationally agreed policy for disability services, whilst at the same time endeavouring to maximise value. Services include Residential and Respite Services, Day Services, PA and Home Support Services, and Therapeutic Supports.

The HSE works in partnership with organisations including Section 38, Section 39, Out of State and For Profit organisations to ensure the best level of service possible is provided to people with a disability, and their families, within the available resources. The majority of specialised disability provision (80%) is delivered through non-statutory sector service providers.

The HSE has over 1,045 Service Arrangements or Grant Aid Agreements with approximately 419 organisations providing a wide variety of disability services on behalf of the HSE. These Service

Regardless of the type of organisation or its location, there are mechanisms and procedures in place to provide assurances to the HSE and to support accountability processes for public expenditure on health and personal social services.

There is continuous engagement between the HSE, the Community Healthcare Organisations (CHOs) and these agencies to ensure resources are prioritised on the basis of meeting the needs of people with a disability and those caring for them within the allocated resources.

With regard to the specific query concerning HSE allocated specific funding to the Brothers of Charity to provide a bespoke service to an adult with ASD, the matter must be brought to the attention of the local HSE area who will have the Service Arrangement in place for the provision of the service.

Recruitment Disability Services

It is acknowledged that the HSE is operating in a very competitive global market for healthcare talent. There are significant shortages of qualified healthcare professionals across the globe. Seven of the



disciplines working in Disability Services have been included on the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment's Critical Skills Occupations List.

To address resourcing challenges, the HSE Resourcing Strategy '*Resourcing our Future*' was launched in May 2023 to ensure a sufficient domestic supply of health care staff. The strategy is being implemented to maximise the resourcing and delivery of publicly funded health services for the future.

Disability Services benefit from resourcing actions in the HSE Resourcing Strategy including increasing Health & Social Care Professionals training places, delivery of an apprenticeship programme for Social Workers and development of further apprenticeship programmes.

The HSE and funded agencies are focused on identifying barriers to workforce growth and putting in place corrective retention and recruitment initiatives.

In 2025, the HSE and funded agencies will continue to focus on maximising recruitment potential and engagement within the current applicant market to achieve workforce growth.

Yours Sincerely,

Gerry Tully,
Assistant National Director, Adult Disability Services, Access & Integration.