



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.

13<sup>th</sup> August 2025

Deputy Pádraig Rice,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
E-mail: [padraig.rice@oireachtas.ie](mailto:padraig.rice@oireachtas.ie)

**PQ: 42585/25**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the reason people with alcohol related brain injuries are excluded from community neurorehabilitation services; to outline the rationale for the exclusion of alcohol related brain injuries from the National Neurorehabilitation Strategy; if she will commit to addressing this by including alcohol related harm in neurorehabilitation services and strategies; and if she will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy Rice,

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

Alcohol-Related Brain Injury is a complex condition and may be present with a number of other conditions such as depression, anxiety and memory loss. A person with an acquired brain injury will require a different range of care, supports and services depending on the stage of presentation ranging from an earlier stage of the condition to later stages.

Health Services are provided based on the assessed needs of the individual rather than by diagnosis. It is this clinical assessment that determines the appropriate pathway for services, including Primary Care, Disability Services, Older Persons Services and Mental health Services as appropriate to their care needs. This applies to all people who present to Health Services, including individuals with alcohol related brain injuries.

HSE Disability services funds a range of community services and supports to enable each individual with a disability, to achieve his or her full potential and maximise independence, including living as independently as possible. Services include Residential and Respite Services, Day Services and Rehabilitative Training, PA and Home Support Services, Therapeutic Supports, and Neuro-rehabilitation Services.

Disability services focus on enabling people with disabilities to achieve their full potential, living ordinary lives in ordinary places, as independently as possible, while ensuring that the voices of service users and their families are heard, and that they are fully involved in planning and improving services to meet their needs.

Importantly, the needs of people with a disability, including acquired brain injuries, extend well beyond health service provision, and the health service will participate fully with other governmental departments and services in the development of cross-sectoral strategies to maximise access to services and supports for people with disabilities.

**Neuro Rehabilitation Implementation Framework**

The Neurorehabilitation Strategy would support access to services based on clinically assessed need rather than diagnosis. Assessment would include an assessment of ability to participate in an active rehabilitation programme. In some instances, an active addiction could impact on an individual's ability to participate in a rehabilitation programme and this would be taken into account.

With regard to each individual with an acquired brain injury, contact should be made with the local HSE services who will have knowledge of the unique and bespoke situation of each person with the acquired brain injury and their individual needs and requirements.



To find the services in each area please see:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/disability/disabilityservicescounty.html>

An additional support and service for people with alcohol related brain injuries include advocacy services such as the National Advocacy Services and SAGE. Please see:

<https://advocacy.ie/>

Yours Sincerely,

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