



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
Treigh, 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.

15th August 2025

Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: richard.boydbarrett@oireachtas.ie

PQ: 44335/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality to estimate the level of need for new disability day service places in 2026; and the estimated costs of providing same.

Dear Deputy Boyd Barrett,

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

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.

There are 19,591 individuals with a disability in receipt of day services, together with a further 2,049 in Rehabilitative Training services (June 2025). These services are provided at 1,091 locations around the country by 97 service provider agencies.

Day services expand every year to meet the needs of over 2,000 people leaving school or rehabilitative training that are referred to the HSE Day Opportunities teams each year. In addition to this, approximately 900 people with a disability who are not school leavers and require a day service later in life, are also referred to the HSE each year. They can only access a day service placement as they become vacant.

With regard to the estimated level of need for new disability services in 2026, annual demography funding is allocated by DCDE to the HSE each year for day service placements to meet the needs of young people leaving school or rehabilitative training. There is a 10% year on year increase in numbers of young people with increased support needs referred.



It is estimated that 1,450 additional places will be required to meet the needs of the young people leaving school and RT in 2026. In addition to this, approximately 200 additional funded places are required in 2026 to meet the needs of people who are referred for day service supports later in life.

The estimated approximate cost of 1,650 additional places in 2026 would be €55,920,150

This excludes the cost of setting up new locations, transport and Multi-Disciplinary Therapy support costs. It also excludes inflation costs. These costs are based on previous year's negotiated placement costs and were subject to the funding available.

The remainder of placements are met through the HSE management of vacant places processes in place throughout the country.

Yours sincerely,

Gerry Tully, Adult Disability Services, Access & Integration