



16th June 2025

Mr. Mattie McGrath TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 29119/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality when funding will be provided for an occupational therapy service in south Tipperary; to outline the current position; the reasons for the delay in resolving this matter; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy McGrath,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.

The 2025 National Service Plan for the HSE included a significant level of investment for Disability Services. The 2025 new development funding received was very focused and targeted at areas such as residential, respite and home support services.

Despite this welcome investment, the cost of running our existing services at current levels over the next twelve months will be a significant challenge, in the context of the overall total funding available to specialist Disability Services in 2025. Furthermore Disability Services do not have additional funding capacity at local level to support the development of new services.

The funding application from Premier Sensory Ltd received was for the funding of two posts - a Chief Executive (General Manager) and the Occupational Therapist plus running costs. This was reviewed and discussed across both Adult and Children Disability Services. At this stage the HSE has not classified this as a service development initiative to progress at present. If a need for this service emerges, Disability Services will initiate a tender process through the Office of the Government Procurement Services.

Correspondence was issued to Premier Sensory Ltd on 30th May 2025 outlining the above.

In South Tipperary Adult Physical/Sensory Disability is covered through Primary Care Occupational Therapy (OT). Children with non-complex needs receive their OT service from Primary Care. Children with complex disabilities received their OT from the Children's Disability Network Teams

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Michelle Doyle
Head of Service - Disability Services
IHA Carlow Kilkenny/Tipperary South
IHA Waterford Wexford