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Deputy Willie O'Dea
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

19th March 2025

Email: Willie.odea@oireachtas.ie

Re: PQ 10685/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth for if she will consider increasing funding for Dóchas Midwest Autism Support which has been funded by the HSE since 2021 however their funding has remained the same since then even though their activities have extended enormously.

Dear Deputy O'Dea,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Query which you submitted to the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

HSE Disability Services Manager has engaged with Dóchas Midwest in line with their Grant Aid Agreement since 2021 in relation to a request of additional funding for the development of their services at Dóchas Midwest Autism Support Parnell Street, Limerick.

In October 2022 Dóchas Midwest submitted a business case to HSE Disability Services for the expansion of activities and services which outlined the funding required for service developments. To date HSE Disability Services has been unable to provide the level of funding required for the development of services due to limited resources.

Dóchas Midwest, will be invited to resubmit the business case alongside their 2025 Grant Aid Application, however I must advise the approval of the business case is subject to available funding resources.

I trust this clarifies the situation, but should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Ethna McTeague
General Manager of Children's Disability Services
HSE Mid West Community Healthcare