



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.

19th June 2025

Deputy David Cullinane,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: david.cullinane@oireachtas.ie

PQ: 28607/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the estimated cost of a day service place.

PQ: 28608/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the estimated unmet need for adult day services.

PQ: 28609/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the estimated annual requirement for adult day services.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

Thank you for your Parliamentary Questions referenced above, which have 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 now 19,524 individuals with a disability in receipt of day services, together with a further 2,046 in Rehabilitative Training services. These services are provided at 1,091 locations around the country by 97 service provider agencies.

With regard to the estimated cost of a day service place, the average cost of a full time day service place in 2024 was €33,891. 2025 placement negotiations are still under way and service providers are requesting greater funding due to inflationary and other cost pressures.

With regard to the estimated unmet need for adult day services, 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. By maximising the use of existing resources, support was provided for this number of people within the funding allocated.

Approximately 900 people with a disability who are not school leavers and require a day service later in life are referred to the HSE each year. They can only access a day service placement as they become vacant.



The changing needs of people in day service are not always met through the current funding structure albeit resources are recycled from those exiting and moving on from services to new entrants. There has always been a range of complexity. As people age their support needs tend to increase. Over 3,600 people attending day services are over the age of 55. Service providers and the HSE teams have highlighted the need to support the changing need of this aging demographic.

With regard to the estimated annual requirement for adult day services, over 3000 people are referred to the HSE day service teams each year. This includes school leavers, people leaving rehabilitative training and non school leavers. There is a 10% year on year increase in numbers of young people with increased support needs referred.

To date, 2,175 young people leaving school and RT in 2025 have been referred to the HSE teams. An estimated 1,500 additional funded places will be required from September 2025. A further increase of 10% in referrals is expected for 2026 leading to the need for approximately 1,650 additional day places.

Approximately 200 additional funded places are required each year to meet the needs of people who are referred for day service supports later in life. The remainder of placements are met through the HSE management of vacant places processes in place throughout the country.

Yours Sincerely,

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