



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.

21st October 2025

Deputy Roderic O'Gorman,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: roderic.ogorman@oireachtas.ie

PQ: 54639/25

To ask the Minister for Health that status of the €500,000 put aside in Budget 2025 to fund the HSE for the refurbishment, operation and staffing of existing hydrotherapy pools that are currently closed; if this money was drawn down in 2025 in full or in part; or if it will be drawn down in full or in part by the end of 2025; if there was draw down, which services benefitted from it; if there was no draw down, the reason for this; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ: 54640/25

To ask the Minister for Health if the allocation of €500,000 put aside in Budget 2025 to fund the HSE for the refurbishment, operation and staffing of existing hydrotherapy pools that are currently closed, will be repeated in Budget 2026; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O Gorman,

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

Hydrotherapy pools in Ireland are either operated by the HSE or Service Providers funded by the HSE including the CRC. There are also privately run hydrotherapy pools.

All pools should be accessible in line with the building regulations, supported by universal design principles and the UNCRPD. Efforts have been made nationally in recent years with grants to make public pools more accessible to persons with disabilities.

Hydrotherapy pools are not available in all parts of the country. According to the Office of the Chief Clinical Officer, it may be preferable and appropriate if people were able to move from a higher cost, controlled therapy environment in a hydrotherapy pool to self-manage with some supports in public and community pools in an integrated way.

Service Plan 2025

As per the 2025 Service Plan, focus for Specialist Community-Based Disability Services was on a number of key areas which included hydrotherapy pools.

Funding of €0.5m was allocated for part year costs to refurbish, operationalise and staff existing hydrotherapy pools that are currently closed. This funding has not yet been allocated to providers in 2025. Part year funding was received in 2025 in respect of the refurbishment, operation and staffing of existing hydrotherapy pools that are currently closed. At this stage of the year, the funding has not yet been allocated to providers.



While Budget 2026 announced on Tuesday the 7th October 2025 secured €3.8 billion for the delivery of disability services in partnership with the HSE which was an a 20% increase on 2025 funding, the specific details regarding the allocation of 2026 funding will not be clarified until the HSE receives the 2026 Letter Of Determination or the written/agreed 2026 National Service Plan. We cannot indicate what funding provision will be made to the RHAs and to which specific issues at this stage.

Yours Sincerely,

Tom McGuirk,
General Manager, Disability Services, Access & Integration