

**Ceann na Seirbhíse Míchumas**

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Slainte
Seirbhísi Pobaill (An Cabhán, Dún na
nGall, Liatroim, Muineachán &
Sligeach)
Áras Isacc Butt, Bealach Féich,
Tír Chonaill F93 YV9R

Head of Service Disability

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7th November, 2025

Eamon Scanlon T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ ref 55449/25

To ask the Minister for Health if she will address the urgent need for a dedicated MS Ireland community worker to serve more than 300 people living with multiple sclerosis in Sligo and Leitrim; if she is aware that counties Sligo and Leitrim are the only counties in the State without a dedicated MS Ireland community worker; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Scanlon,

HSE Community Services Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo (CS CDLMS) Disability Services have been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health, for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlined the position.

Firstly, HSE Disability Services are funded for the provision of Specialist Community Based Disability Services by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE). Currently, there is no funding allocation to the HSE CS CDLMS Disability Services' budget for the purpose of employing a Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Ireland Community Worker in the Sligo/ Leitrim area.

MS Ireland has submitted a business case for the recruitment of an MS Ireland Community Worker in the Sligo/Leitrim area to the HSE Physical and Sensory Disability Service. This has been reviewed by the Disability Services Manager and escalated to senior management for consideration of funding and onward submission if approved to National HSE Disability Services Access & Integration for its funding and budgetary negotiations with DCDE.

The following supports to people with MS, which are funded via the DCDE budget allocation for Specialist Community Based Disability Services, are in place in the Sligo/Leitrim area:

- The HSE Physical & Sensory (P&S) Disability Service provides a Case Co-ordination and a Social Work Service.
- The P&S Disability Service also funds Home Support and Personal Assistant (PA) Services for individuals in line with their assessed needs.
- The MS North West Therapy Centre, which receives funding through a Service Arrangement annually from HSE Disability Services, aims to enrich the lives of people with MS and related neurological conditions by providing the following services and supports to clients and their families;
 - Physiotherapy, on a one to one basis.

- Telehealth consultations.
- Dry needling.
- Online exercise classes, including circuit classes, chair based classes, upper limb classes and strength classes.
- Specific equipment assessments.
- Midday meditation sessions.
- Alternative therapies, including hyperbaric oxygen treatment, reflexology and counselling.
- Peer Support Group.
- Foot Care Clinic.

People with MS in the Sligo/Leitrim area also have access to HSE community based services such as Occupational Therapy and Orthotics.

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

Yours sincerely,

Edel Quinn
Head of Service Disability Services
Community Services Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo
Seirbhísi Pobail An Cabhán, Dún na nGall, Liatroim, Muineachán & Sligeach