



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,
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Roselawn House, University Business
Complex, National Technology Park,
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16th September 2025

Deputy Eoghan Kenny,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: eoghan.kenny@oireachtas.ie

PQ: 45970/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality for an update on the programme for Government commitment to develop a vehicle upgrade initiative for disability service providers, to date in 2025; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Kenny,

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

The provision of transport services is not part of core services within disability services. As a general rule, public transport should be used in all circumstances where it is an option. This is in keeping with the principle of mainstreaming with a clear focus on ensuring persons with a disability have access to the normal range of services and participate in community life as far as possible. It must be noted that in general, many people with a disability are in receipt of disability allowance and are automatically entitled to the Free Travel Pass.

In December 2024, the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth provided sanction for a once-off measure of €3.6 million funding to be used for the upgrade/replacement of transport vehicles.

Building on a similar approach to addressing the issue of ageing vehicles in disability residential and respite services in 2021, this funding was specifically aimed at supporting the provision of vehicles for transport to day services where other transport solutions are not available and where an ageing fleet exists.

This funding was allocated to HSE, S38 and S39 services with the following requirements:

- The funding was to be used in 2024.
- It was recommended that priority be given to replacing old or unreliable vehicles but if an additional vehicle is purchased to be aware that there is no revenue funding available to cover the costs of the driver, escort and the maintenance and running of the vehicle.
- As the focus is on day services, the funding should be used for the purchase of cars and people carriers to the greatest extent possible.

Analysis of information received from the Regional Health Care areas indicate that:

- 100% of the funding allocated was used to purchase a total of 77 vehicles, 41 of which were replacement vehicles for old or unreliable stock and 36 were new vehicles added to the transport fleet. This exceeded the target figure of 72 vehicles.
- Funding was provided to 30 Service Providers including the HSE and S38 and S39 funded organisations.



- The majority of the funding was allocated to service providers funded under S39 of the Health Act, which accounted for 52% of the vehicles purchased and 51% of the funding allocated. Section 38 funded providers accounted for 36% of the funding and 31% of the number of vehicles; while the HSE accounted for 13% of the funding and 17% of the number of vehicles purchased.
- The RHAs have indicated that a total of 717 service users benefitted immediately from these vehicles; 5 of the vehicles will be utilised by a single user; while several will be used by 40 or more people.

Yours Sincerely,

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