

**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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11th September, 2025

Deputy Pat the Cope Gallagher
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ ref 46932/25

“To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the plans to replace the ageing fleet for Donegal Community Inclusion Training Service; and if she will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Gallagher,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality for response.

Having examined the matter, the following outlines the position.

Donegal Community Inclusion Training Services (DCITS) provide vital disability day services and supports to approximately 240 adults with intellectual disabilities across Co. Donegal. These services are delivered in line with the national HSE New Directions policy, which guides the development and provision of disability day services with a strong focus on community inclusion, active citizenship, and person-centredness.

Given Donegal's large geographical area and many rural locations where public transport remains limited, DCITS have a fleet of vehicles to facilitate access to the community. This fleet supports adults attending the service, including those with complex support needs and physical disabilities, enabling them to participate actively in education, training, work placements, employment, sporting clubs, gyms, and social and recreational activities. This access is essential not only for community participation but also for building meaningful relationships and promoting inclusion.

A significant number of vehicles in the DCITS fleet are ageing and are associated with high repair and maintenance costs. Unfortunately, Disability Services in the Community Services Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan (CS CDLMS) area do not have a dedicated budget for replacing vehicles that are coming to the end of their operational life. Whilst funding for vehicle replacement is provided on occasion by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality to HSE and HSE funded services to replace vehicles, such funding is not made available on an annual, planned basis.

CS CDLMS Disability Services and DCITS are working with a number of HSE teams in an effort to identify funding for the update of these vehicles including the National HSE Disability Day Services team under the School Leaver annual funding allocation for transport and once-off vehicle purchases.

DCITS are joining HSE Managed Services in October 2025 for all aspects of maintenance and preventive maintenance scheduling, vehicle testing and breakdown services along with the HSE National Ambulance Service. This is part of a pilot project which was highly recommended in the 2024 HSE Excellence Awards.

The Integrated Healthcare Area and Disability Services management team in Donegal will continue to work with DCITS to seek additional funding in the coming years towards continued provision and updating of vehicles.

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