



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,
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30th September 2025

Deputy Martin Daly,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: martin.daly@oireachtas.ie

PQ: 48573/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality if she will review the current funding model for disability day services, particularly the standard six-hour day, with a view to extending service hours for adults with disabilities in line with their needs and the increasing complexity of service users.

PQ: 48592/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the impact of underfunded disability day services on families, particularly in rural areas, where one family member may be required to leave employment to provide care due to limited service hours and transport availability; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ: 48593/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the strategic planning underway to ensure disability day services in rural Ireland are adequately resourced to meet growing demand; and whether her Department will engage with service providers such as an organisation (Brothers of Charity Ireland) to address long-standing funding and transport challenges.

PQ: 48595/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality if she will review the current six-hour standard day for adult disability services, as applied to an organisation (details supplied), with a view to extending service hours to better reflect the needs of service users and reduce the burden on families.

Details Supplied: Brothers of Charity Services Ireland.

PQ: 48599/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality if she will consider extending the standard duration of adult disability day services from six to eight hours per day, particularly in counties such as Roscommon where services are delivered by providers such as an organisation (details supplied); and whether such an extension would be supported by additional funding to enable families especially parents to return to work and maintain their own lives alongside caring responsibilities.

Details Supplied: Brothers of Charity Services Ireland.



Dear Deputy Daly,

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 19,591 individuals with a disability in receipt of day services, together with a further 2,049 in Rehabilitative Training services (June 2025). These services are provided at 1,091 locations around the country by 97 service provider agencies.

Day services expand every year to meet the needs of over 2,000 people leaving school or rehabilitative training that are referred to the HSE Day Opportunities teams each year.

With regard to reviewing the current funding model for disability day services, particularly the standard six-hour day, HSE funded Adult Day Services primarily provide support during the day time hours of 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday. With the implementation of the New Directions policy, some day service providers have been flexible with these hours and have supported people outside of the traditional day time hours. This flexibility is welcome where possible within the allocated funding.

The HSE in partnership with stakeholders through the National New Directions Implementation Group, are currently considering how more flexibility can be provided into the future in line with the UNCRPD and New Directions policy.

With regard to the impact of underfunded disability day services on families, particularly in rural areas, a full time day service is where adults receive 30 hours supports per week from a day service provider out of a day service location. The funding allocated for a full time placement is for 30 hours of supports. The 30 hours is direct service support time and does not incorporate any time spent travelling to and from the day location.

The HSE do not receive funding for the transport required to enable people access day service locations from their home. However, it is acknowledged that some people would be unable to access day services if the appropriate accessible transport was not provided. Arrangements are negotiated regionally with the service provider, the HSE Day Opportunities team, the person and their family. In some situations service funding has been used to enable people who need specialised transport to access the service. Every effort is made at local level to ensure each person can avail of day service supports.

Referencing the question regarding strategic planning, the HSE Day Service Access & Integration Team, in cooperation with local Day Opportunities teams and service provider organisations, review and plan for future demand based on identified need and regional and national data. In 2025 there was a 10% increase in the number of people leaving school referred to the HSE Day Opportunities teams, and a similar increase in demand is indicated for 2026.

The HSE have informed DCDE of the funding required based on the numbers and needs of people referred. The HSE also inform DCDE of the challenges such as funding for changing needs, staffing, inflationary pressures, multi-disciplinary supports and supports to enable the person commute to/from their day service.

With regard to reviewing the current six-hour standard day for adult disability services to better reflect the needs of service users and reduce the burden on families, persons with a primary disability or ASD diagnosis, aged 18 and over can access HSE funded Adult Day Services. Services must be provided in line with HSE policy and is governed by the HSE regional level. Each person should have Person-Centred Plan (PCP) and support provided in line with this plan.

As mentioned above, some day service providers have been flexible with these hours and have supported people outside of the traditional day time hours. This flexibility is welcome and any extension of service will need to be in line with allocated funding. Extending service hours may require additional funding and a change of conditions for staff



roles to reflect services provided outside of the usual 9-5 Monday to Friday service provision. The funding available does not extend to this level of support for all.

Of the approx. 22,000 people with a disability who receive a day service, approx. 15,500 people are supported by their family as their primary support. The HSE in partnership with stakeholders through the National New Directions Implementation Group, are currently considering how more flexibility can be provided into the future in line with the UNCRPD and New Directions policy to enable each person to have a meaningful day. Our shared challenge is how do we continue to evolve the current system to meet changing needs across the adult lifespan, within the various streams and available resources.

Yours Sincerely,

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