



## **Confidential survey for research on the ‘costs of disability’**

The Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection has commissioned Indecon Research Economists to carry out a research study into the [Cost of Disability](#) in Ireland. This research will help policymakers understand the extra financial and other costs people with disabilities may face because of their disability.

To assist with this research, the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection is issuing a survey to over 34,000 people currently in receipt of disability payments from the Department. There are 2 surveys being issued, one for those in receipt of relevant disability payments and the other for those specifically in receipt of Blind Pension.

### **How to Participate**

Each survey has a corresponding online version and other people with disabilities who aren't included in the postal samples above are invited to participate by completing the online surveys at the following links:

- Link to General Survey: <https://www.research.net/r/costofdisability>
- Link to Blind Pension Survey: <https://www.research.net/r/costofdisabilityirl>

This survey gives people with disabilities an opportunity to contribute directly to national policy about any additional costs faced by individuals with disabilities.

### **Who can complete the survey?**

Ideally, it is hoped that the survey can be completed by the person with a disability themselves, but the most important thing is that the answers represent their views and experiences as the person with a disability.

A carer, personal assistant, family member or friend may also complete, or help the person with a disability to complete, the survey.

### **This survey is voluntary and completely confidential**

This survey is completely voluntary, and all survey responses are completely anonymous and strictly confidential to Indecon Research Economists who are independently evaluating the costs of disability in Ireland. Survey participant names or other personal details are not required. Indecon will not share survey responses with Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection or anyone else. Responses will have no impact on participant's social welfare payments or entitlements, if any.

### **Any Questions?**

From Monday 19 October, a survey helpline on 01-704 3029 is open to take calls from customers who have questions about the survey. The helpline is available from

Monday to Friday, 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 4pm. There is also a dedicated email address in place for queries: [CODSurvey@welfare.ie](mailto:CODSurvey@welfare.ie).

Alternatively, Indecon Research Economists can be contacted via email at:

- Brian O'Connell - [boconnell@indecon.ie](mailto:boconnell@indecon.ie) or
- Ronnie O'Toole - [rotoole@indecon.ie](mailto:rotoole@indecon.ie).

**Please note that the requested closing date for receipt of completed surveys is Monday 16 November 2020.**