



**Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,**  
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,  
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

**Office of the Head of Operations,**  
Disability Services/Social Care Division,  
31-33 Catherine Street, Limerick.

T: 00353 (0) 61 483369  
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21<sup>st</sup> November 2022

Deputy Marc Ó Cathasaigh,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
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Dear Deputy Ó Cathasaigh,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary question, which was submitted to this department for response.

**PQ: 48436/22**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the current level of funding provided to an organisation (details supplied) for its recycle mobility programme to help provide independence in mobility for children with disabilities; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Details Supplied: Variety Ireland

**HSE Response**

Variety Ireland (The Heart of Variety (Ireland) Company Limited by Guarantee is a S39 organisation with charitable status.

Established in 1967, the Heart of Variety is currently a volunteer operated children's charity that specialises in providing special mobility and specialised educational equipment to assist children with intellectual disability and /or physical and sensory disability up to the age of their 19th birthday living in Ireland.

Their services include the "Recycle Mobility Programme" which provides special mobility equipment to children with mobility issues so they can be included in cycling activities with their family and friends.

This supports equal access to cycling and inclusion which can improve the mental and physical well-being of both the child with disabilities and other family members and carers.

This programme is environmentally sustainable and cost effective as the organisation endeavours to extend the life of each trike in the method that it manages the mobility equipment.

The HSE provides funding to Variety Ireland under S39 of the Health Act and has a formal and robust Governance Framework in place that enables the HSE to contractually underpin the funding provided.



Currently, in 2023, the organisation is in receipt of €317,742 from the HSE under the Service Arrangement Governance framework.

Yours Sincerely,

*Bernard O'Regan*

**Bernard O'Regan,  
Head of Operations - Disability Services,  
Community Operations**

