



**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,  
Castletroy,  
Limerick.

7<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Deputy Pauline Tully,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
E-mail: [pauline.tully@oireachtas.ie](mailto:pauline.tully@oireachtas.ie)

Dear Deputy Tully,

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: 15356/24**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth what medical supports are available outside of normal business hours, 9am-5pm Monday to Friday, to enable disabled people to live independently in the community.*

### **HSE Response**

The HSE provides and funds a wide range of specialist disability services to those with physical, sensory, intellectual disability and autism. Services focus on supporting and enabling people with disabilities to maximise their full potential, as independently as possible. Current policies are based on the principles of person-centredness to ensure insofar as possible, that the supports for a person are based on individual assessed need, will and preference and to support people to remain as close to home and connected to their community as possible.

Services are provided in a variety of community and residential settings in partnership with service users, their families and carers and a range of statutory, non-statutory, voluntary and community groups. Specialist Disability services are delivered through a mix of HSE direct provision as well as through over 400 voluntary Section 38 and 39 funded service providers, and private providers. The range of specialist disability services provided to people with disabilities includes:

1. Residential
2. Respite
3. Day Services & Rehabilitative Training
4. Assisted Living Services (Home Support & Personal Assistant Services)
5. Early Intervention and School-aged Services - Progressing Disability Services for Children & Young People (0-18 years)



6. Multidisciplinary supports
7. Aids and Appliances
8. Neuro-Rehabilitation Services
9. Financial Allowances
10. Miscellaneous Support Services

Due to the nature of the service and the needs and requirement of the individual service users, many disability services are provided outside of normal hours and on a 24 hour basis, for example; Residential and Respite services.

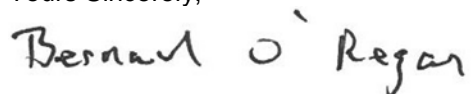
Medical Support is provided based on the nature of the medical support required (emergency or non emergency) and the individual policies of the service provider in conjunction with the local community/ acute services.

General Practitioners who hold General Medical Service Scheme Contracts with the HSE are required under their contracts to make suitable arrangements to enable contact to be made with them or their locums/deputies during out-of-hours periods for urgent cases. There are GP Out-of-Hours co-operative arrangements in operation nationally.

In addition, there are a number of GMS GPs who do not participate in these Out-of-Hours Co-Ops but would provide Out-of-Hours cover with other GPs in their locality through rota type arrangements.

Other services include Local Injury Units and Emergency Departments in Acute Services.

Yours Sincerely,



**Bernard O'Regan**  
**Assistant National Director**  
**National Disability Team**

