



**Oifig an Stiúrthóir Cúnta Náisiúnta,**  
Foireann Míchumais Náisiúnta,  
An Chéad Urlár - Oifigí 13, 14, 15,  
Àras 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.

26<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Deputy Catherine Connolly,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
E-mail: [catherine.connolly@oireachtas.ie](mailto:catherine.connolly@oireachtas.ie)

Dear Deputy Connolly,

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: 16174/24**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the details of any analysis carried out by his Department regarding the adequacy of the current lower age limit for school leaver referrals for HSE funded adult day services, which can only be made once the student turns 16 years; his plans to reduce the lower age limit to 13 years to allow for a longer planning period for the transition of services; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

**HSE Response**

Referrals to HSE Day Service can be made at age 16 onwards. People transitioning to HSE Day services are met by the Day Opportunities Teams in CHO's who provide guidance to the person and their family on options and support available at the time of profiling and up to their placements.

With regard to lowering the referral age limit to 13 years, the needs of young people change during their developmental years and by the time they are leaving school, they may not require HSE Adult Day Service Supports.

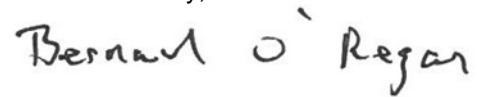
There is a CES pilot running in CHO2 and CHO9 hosted by Oide in the Department of Education, working with young people in transition year to plan earlier and explore transition options earlier. (DCEDIY sit on the steering group).



It is not advisable to record an individual child's details under the age of 16 on an Adult Disability Database in line with GDPR.

In addition to this, the HSE National Day Service Office are currently working with schools to identify the number of younger students that may require day service supports on leaving school. Those numbers, cross referenced with NASS data and trends from previous years, provide the information to support future planning.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernard O'Regan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

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

