



**Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,**  
Seirbhísí 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 Head of Operations,**  
National Disability Services  
First Floor- Offices 13, 14, 15  
Roselawn House, University Business Complex,  
National Technology Park,  
Castletroy,  
Limerick.

4<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Deputy Michael Ring,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
E-mail: [michael.ring@oireachtas.ie](mailto:michael.ring@oireachtas.ie)

Dear Deputy Ring,

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 5038/24**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if assistance is available to provide a modular home/log cabin to adults with additional needs to help them to transition to independent living; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

**HSE Response**

Wherever possible, people with disabilities are supported to live in the community and to access mainstream health and social care services. Specialist disability services focus on providing supports to people with more complex disabilities, and to complement the mainstream health and social care services provided to people with disabilities alongside the rest of the population. The development of specialist services is underpinned by some key principles including:

- Rights-based services aligned with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Services provided in the community where people live
- Early intervention to maximise people's capacities
- Person-centred services supporting people's choice and control
- A strengths-based approach, recognising and supporting the inherent abilities of people with disabilities
- Coherent and integrated services and supports
- Services that are equitable and consistent
- Prioritisation on the basis of assessed need



- Services provided by interdisciplinary teams, networked regionally with other teams, and supported by enhanced services and supports where necessary.

The principle of 'mainstream first' requires that HSE-led services are developed in the context of supporting actions by Government departments in the areas of housing, transport, education, including higher education, employment and social protection.

With regard to the specific question asked, HSE Estates has confirmed that there is no funding for 'modular housing' for individuals. Funding for social housing for disabled people is through the capital programmes and provided to local authorities and Approved Housing Bodies.

A disabled person may apply for any of the other schemes to provide private housing for themselves if they qualify.

In the provision of accommodation, the HSE ensures compliance with:

- The Building Regulations (which apply to all buildings including new buildings and refurbishments/retrofits)
- Buildings for Everyone', other advice from the National Disability Authority and also the National Disability Strategy 2017-21
- UD principles as championed by the Centre in Excellence in Universal Design (CEUD).

## Housing

With regard to additional extra housing capital, the HSE and its funded service providers operate within a buoyant and competitive housing market. A tendering process, linked to multi-annual funding and the planned availability of housing in conjunction with relevant Government departments, will assist the HSE to achieve the best value possible in today's housing market.

### The National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022 - 2027

The National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022 - 2027 has been developed by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH), in association with the Department of Health (DoH) and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) under the guiding principles of *Housing for All – A New Housing Plan for Ireland*. It documents the framework for the delivery of housing for disabled people through mainstream housing policy.

No one department or organisation can deliver on the vision of the Strategy alone. The delivery must be done in a coordinated and collaborative way, in line with the UNCRPD, with disabled people at the centre. Delivering on "Article 19 - Living independently and being included in the community", ensures disabled people have equal rights in accessing housing and equal rights to accessing supports necessary to enable them to live independently within the community.

In addition to *Housing for All*, the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022 align with other disability services strategies and policies including as follows:

- *Time to Move on from Congregated Settings*.
- *Wasted Lives Report*
- *Sharing the Vision*
- *Disability Capacity Review to 2032*
- *The National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017 – 2021*

It is important that all strategies not only align but promote the inclusion and effective participation of disabled people in their implementation.



For further information on the housing strategy for disabled people and plans going forward for implementation of same, please see:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/60d76-national-housing-strategy-for-disabled-people-2022-2027/>

Yours sincerely,

*Bernard O'Regan*

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

