



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
Suíomh Gréasáin/Website: <http://www.hse.ie>

23rd February 2024

Deputy Mark Ward,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: mark.ward@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Ward,

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

PQ 3422/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if the conditions of St. John of God Community Services' service agreement since 2021 have been met; if they continue to be met; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 3423/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the funding for St. John of God Community Services in each year since 2019; the breakdown of funding per service provided by the service; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

The HSE has worked in partnership with St John of Gods Community Services CLG (SJOGCS) over the last number of years to address issues regarding historic debt and operational sustainability.

With regard to the Service Agreement, St John of Gods Community Services CLG have not signed the agreements over the last few years, however, the organisation participates in engagement with the HSE around integrated monitoring as is required on the reporting of activity and spending.

Throughout that time the HSE has continued to provide the necessary resources to ensure continuity of service.

Funding

Over €2.9bn will be expended on disability services in Ireland this year. That's an annual increase of almost €200m in recent years. Funding is distributed in the fairest manner possible across Providers and across HSE areas.



St. John of God Community Services is fully funded and has broken even in recent years.

Since 2019, funding of up to €200m has been provided to SJOGCS each year up to 2024. This has been allocated across all SJOG service areas.

The support and funding provided to SJOGCS is to a level that allows it to function effectively.

SJOGCS provides intellectual disability services under its Section 38 arrangement in:

- Community Healthcare Cork Kerry,
- Community Healthcare East (Dublin South East, Dublin South, Wicklow),
- Community Healthcare Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow
- Community Healthcare Midlands Louth Meath

Mental health services are provided in:

- Community Healthcare East (Dublin South East, Dublin South, Wicklow) and
- Community Healthcare Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow

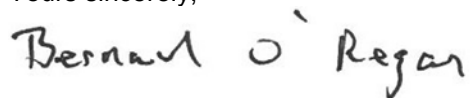
Saint John of God Community Services transfer of services

In recent days, Saint John of God Community Services (SJOGCS) have served notice of their intention to step away from the provision of services. The HSE has received this notice with significant disappointment having worked with the entity over the last ten years on funding related matters.

The priority now for both the HSE and SJOGCS is that the people who use the service, their families and staff are not impacted by the transfer of services. While we continue to work towards a resolution of the current issues and the continuance by Saint John of God Community Services as requested by the Minister, the HSE and SJOGCS are working in parallel to ensure that the necessary transition and transfer arrangements if required are progressed with minimal disruption to service users. The HSE and SJOGCS can assure service users, their families and staff that current services will continue after the transition. A significant transfer window is available to us manage the process and in the meantime it should be largely business as usual. The HSE and SJOGCS through a joint Transfer Task group will communicate and engage with all relevant stakeholders on an ongoing basis.

The HSE values SJOGCS, its Board, the Executive Management Team and the staff. We will continue to work with them to ensure services continue to be delivered seamlessly and appropriately during the transition.

Yours sincerely,



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



**Gerard Tully,
Head of Stability and Sustainability,
Assistant National Director, HSE**

