



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.

7th August 2024

Deputy Danny Healy-Rae
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: danny.healy-rae@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Healy Rae,

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: 32743/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth to request the HSE to provide transport to day services for people with intellectual disabilities (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Details Supplied: I ask the Minister and the HSE can they provide transport to day services for people with intellectual disabilities. When such people were in the education system up to the age of 18 years of age, they were provided with transport to and from school. However now that they are effectively under the department of Health, such provision is not there. Transport is provided for people in long term residential care, however not for people who are being cared for in their family home. Many of these parents are in their late seventies and eighties and are not able to drive their family member to such services.

HSE Response

Day Services are a key component of support services that enable people to live within the community. Currently over 19,300 people are in receipt of disability Day Service supports (excluding RT) at 1,091 locations around the country. These supports are provided by 97 service provider agencies. Day Services are provided as close to the person's home as practicably possible whilst meeting the persons support needs. It is acknowledged that many people with a disability need access to transport to enable each person attend a Day Service.

With regard to transport provision to attend Disability Day Services, the provision of transport services is not part of core services within disability services. As a general rule public transport should be used in all circumstances where it is an option. This is in keeping with the principle of mainstreaming with a clear focus on ensuring persons with a disability have access to the normal range of services and participate in community life as far as possible. It must be noted that in general, many people with a disability are in receipt of disability allowance and are automatically entitled to the Free Travel Pass.

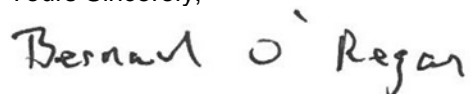


We recognise that public transport options are not always available to many people throughout the country. The issue for Day Services is that transport is not included in the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth funding for adult disability services and they are working to address this.

Acknowledging the need for appropriate accessible transport without which some people would not be able to access day services, the HSE works collaboratively with Day Service providers, the people attending the service and their families to find viable transport solutions. Many families transport their family member to and from disability services each day. Some service providers have built up their own transport fleet that provides the necessary transport to people attending their services

Third party contracted transport which may require a contribution from the person has been negotiated in many areas, for example, Local Link in CHO 1 is supplemented by a contribution from each transport user. When all options have been explored, transport solutions have been agreed locally with the Day Service provider and the HSE.

Yours Sincerely,



Bernard O'Regan
Assistant National Director
National Disability Team

