



**Oifig an Stiúirthóir 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,  
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Roselawn House, University Business Complex,  
National Technology Park,  
Castletroy,  
Limerick.

4<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Deputy Jim O'Callaghan,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
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Dear Deputy O'Callaghan,

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: 38626/24**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the projected cost of expanding the in-school therapy pilot scheme to include five additional schools*

## **HSE Response**

### **Pilot in Special Schools**

In line with Government policy, the HSE has recruited approximately 80 of the 136 additional posts provided for by Government to restore supports to special schools to pre-reconfiguration levels.

In August 2024, Government asked the HSE to initiate a pilot of dedicated supports, under the governance of the CDNTs, to six special schools initially, two in Dublin and four in Cork.

The HSE continues work with Lead Agencies to recruit staff for provision of on-site therapy supports in the six schools and meanwhile, progressing interim measures including redeployment of existing staff from CDNTs, private service providers, and engaging recently retired therapists.

The HSE is working with representatives from DCEDIY, Dept. of Education and the NCSE at the National Oversight Group to lead the overall Pilot. In addition, local working groups have been established and are currently developing a joint working model of service.



A further ten schools are to be included in the Pilot and the National Oversight Group has commenced consideration of which schools are to be included. It is expected that this will be concluded and the schools announced later in October 2024.

### **Cost of expanding the in-school therapy pilot scheme to include five additional schools**

The cost of additional staff is dependent on the number of children in the specific special schools and discipline/grade of staff required.

In the current special school pilot, 1 WTE SLT and 1 WTE OT per 100 children is assigned.

For a school with 70 children, 0.75 WTE SLT and 0.75 WTE OT is assigned.

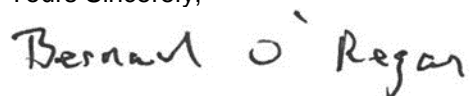
The cost of a Staff Grade therapist @midpoint of the payscale, inclusive of pay and non pay costs is approximately €66,957 full year costs. (One full WTE)

The cost of two Staff Grade therapists (.75 WTE OT and .75 WTE SLT for a special school with 70 children) would be €100,435 approximately.

The costs of 5 special schools with 70 children per school would be €502,177.

It is important to note that these are approximate figures and as mentioned above, the cost is dependent on the numbers in each school and the discipline and grade of staff required.

Yours Sincerely,



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

