



**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.

30<sup>th</sup> October 2024

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

Dear Deputy Moynihan,

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: 41898/24**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the details of the increase in funding for specialist community based disability services (details supplied) in each CHO area since 2020; the estimated funding to be provided for each CHO area in 2025; the new and additional services provided in each CHO area since 2020; the new and additional services to be provided in each CHO area in 2025; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Details Supplied: with regard to the €3.2 billion of current funding for Specialist Community Based Disability Services in 2025, representing an overall increase of €1.2bn since 2020.

**HSE Response**

HSE Disability Services is allocated funding on an annual basis to provide a range of services throughout the country. Funding is spent in line with nationally agreed policy for disability services, whilst at the same time endeavouring to maximise value. Services include Residential and Respite Services, Day Services, PA and Home Support Services, and Therapeutic Supports.

There has been year on year increased funding provided for Disability Services. The Table below demonstrates the increased funding for Disability services each year

Table 1

Year	Funding
2020	€ 2.0 billion
2021	€2.2 billion
2022	€2.3 billion
2023	€2.5 billion



2024	€2.9 billion
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This Funding has been split in to Service areas since 2018. See Table 2 below.

Table 2

Service area	2018 Funding €000	2019 Funding €000	2020 Funding €000	2021 Funding €000	2022 Funding €000	2023 Funding €000
<b>Residential Places</b>	1,111,110	1,185,355	1,254,923	1,312,414	1,368,021	1,461,897
<b>Day Services</b>	389,441	433,254	477,382	543,407	580,489	620,279
<b>Respite</b>	53,595	56,212	70,677	87,423	96,465	105,703
<b>PA &amp; Home Support</b>	80,957	84,909	94,885	100,613	109,809	115,191
<b>Multidisciplinary Support (WTEs)</b>	84,435	88,557	98,704	108,380	133,251	153,835
<b>Other Community Services &amp; Supports</b>	52,762	55,338	57,929	58,664	59,346	61,648
<b>Total</b>	1,772,300	1,903,625	2,054,500	2,210,900	2,347,380	2,518,552

### Specialist Disability Services – Current Provision

The HSE provides and funds a wide range of specialist disability services to those with physical, sensory, intellectual disability and autism. Services focus on supporting and enabling people with disabilities to maximise their full potential, as independently as possible. Current policies are based on the principles of person-centredness to ensure insofar as possible that the supports for a person are based on individual assessed need, will and preference and to support people to remain as close to home and connected to their community as possible. Services are provided in a variety of community and residential settings in partnership with service users, their families and carers and a range of statutory, non-statutory, voluntary and community groups. Specialist Disability services are delivered through a mix of HSE direct provision as well as through over 400 voluntary Section 38 and 39 funded service providers, and private providers.

Specialist Disability Services has been allocated €2.9 billion in 2024. This funding is providing Services throughout the country across HSE Areas and is spent in line with nationally agreed policy for disability services, whilst at the same time endeavouring to maximise value.

- Approximately 60% of the resources available are allocated to provide a range of residential services to 8,600 people with a disability.
- A further 20% is targeted at the provision of day services to 23,000 people in 1,041 locations around the country. These supports are provided by approximately 95 service provider agencies (predominately Section 38 and 39 agencies).
- The remaining 20% provides: Respite Care Services to over 6,000 people; 5.3 million Personal Assistant and Home Support hours to over 10,000 people; Children’s Therapeutic Supports provided by 93 Children’s Disability Network Teams (CDNTs); and Other Support Services

In addition to the above level of service delivery, Specialist Disability Services is also involved in a number of key change projects:

- Implementation of the Action Plan for Disability Services 2024 – 2026, which was prepared by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and aims to provide a costed pathway for stable sustainable service development in the context of meeting our obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD);
- Implementation of the National Neuro-Rehabilitation Strategy and Managed Clinical Rehabilitation Network;
- Implementation of the Pilot Personalised Budget Demonstration Project;
- Development of national outcomes monitoring system for Disability Day Services;



- Development of a new procurement framework for Disability & Mental Health private residential placements;
- Oversee the national U65 implementation project team to address the recommendations of the Wasted Lives report and the development of pathways for under 65s in nursing homes to transition to appropriate supports in the community;
- Implementation of a Disability Service Home Support Authorisation Scheme and the development of a Disability Home Support Procurement Framework;
- Development of a roadmap for the improvement and enhancement of Personal Assistance (PA) Services on an equitable national basis;
- Development of Standards for Home Sharing Service;
- Implementation of the Service Improvement Programme for the Autistic Community;
- Developing Sustainability Impact Assessments of large complex Section 38 and 39 organisations - Sustainability Impact Assessments (SIA Projects) are undertaken to address the critical operational challenges of individual S39 and S38 service providers and define a pathway and action plan to deliver long term stability and sustainability (i.e. strategic change in line with transformation agenda) of services.
- System design, development, specification, testing, training, and application support for all admin and clinical staff across all 12 Lead Agency CDNT organisations for the Children’s Disability Network Teams Information Management System (CDNTIMS);
- Implementation of the National Medicines Management Framework & commencement of QCI Level 5 course;
- Update, expansion and implementation of the Health Passport;
- Development of a National Thalidomide Liaison Function, including the establishment of a National Thalidomide Office.

Please see the table below which provides an update on Specialist Community Disability services Activity to the end of August 2024.

Table 3

Specialist Community Disability Services Activity	NSP 2024 Expected Activity	Activity to end Q2	Activity to end August
<b>Residential Places</b>			
No. of residential places for people with a disability (including new planned places)	8,431		8,596
<b>New Priority 1 Residential Places Provided to People with a Disability</b>			
No. of new Priority 1 Residential places provided to people with a disability	96		134
No. of intensive support packages for priority 1 cases	469		541
<b>Congregated Settings</b>			
Facilitate the movement of people from congregated to community settings	73		25
<b>Day Services including School Leavers</b>			
No. of people (all disabilities) in receipt of RT	2,290		1,806
No. of people with a disability in receipt of other day services (excl. RT) (adult) (ID / autism and physical and sensory disability)	20,300	20,000	
<b>Respite Services</b>			
	40,400	29,077	



No. of day only respite sessions accessed by people with a disability			
No. of people with a disability in receipt of respite services (ID / autism and physical and sensory disability)	6,200	6,127	
No. of overnights (with or without day respite) accessed by people with a disability	160,000	76,863	
<b>Personal Assistance (PA)</b>			
No. of PA service hours delivered to adults with a physical and / or sensory disability	1.85m	925,522	
No. of adults with a physical and / or sensory disability in receipt of a PA service	2,740	2,865	
<b>Home Support Service</b>			
No. of home support hours delivered to persons with a disability	3.48m	1,882,693	
No. of people with a disability in receipt of home support services (ID / autism and physical and sensory disability)	7,326	6,935	
<b>Disability Act Compliance</b>			
No. of requests for assessment of need received for children	8,050	5,345	
% of child assessments completed within the timelines as provided for in the regulations	100%	10.3%	

With regard to funding for new measures for Disability Services, please see the Table below which provides a breakdown of New Service developments Pay and Non Pay 2024. (September 2024)

Table 4

<b>Table 7: HSE New Service Developments Pay Allocation and WTEs 2024</b>				
<b>HSE New Service Developments Allocation</b>	<b>WTEs</b>	<b>Pay €m</b>	<b>NonPay €m</b>	<b>Total €m</b>
Residential Placements	246	10.075	5.425	15.500
Tusla placements	0	0.000	5.000	5.000
Respite	122	6.000	9.000	15.000
School Leavers - new intake	231	6.370	11.830	18.200
Educational Programmes	0	0.000	2.000	2.000
Therapy Assistant Positions	88	2.450	1.050	3.500
Children's Targeted Services	0	0.000	3.000	3.000
Home Support Rate Equalisation	0	0.000	3.500	3.500
Neuro Community	21	1.120	0.280	1.400
PA Hours	0	0.000	2.000	2.000
Mobility and transport schemes	0	0.000	5.000	5.000
<b>HSE New Service Developments Allocation 2024</b>	<b>707</b>	<b>26.015</b>	<b>48.085</b>	<b>74.100</b>
<i>Note: Only funding provided to statutory and S38 organisations has a WTE impact. Therefore the above WTE, Pay, NonPay allocation is an estimate and subject to change pending the confirmation of funding to all HSE funded organisations .</i>				

## Disability Service Provision 2025

### Estimates Process and Multi Annual Investment



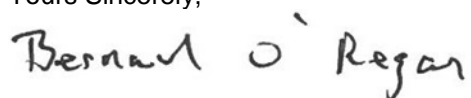
Each year the HSE participates in the Estimates Process with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and makes a submission for additional monies to meet the health and social care needs of the population it services.

The Disability Service makes submissions for additional funding for all services including Day, Residential, Respite, Home Support/PA hours, Multi-Disciplinary Posts and Neuro Rehab monies as a key element of its submission. Any new funding secured is allocated to the CHOs to provide services to those with the greatest need (priority basis).

The HSE makes every effort to secure multi-annual investment for services via the Estimates process and is very conscious of the need to deliver disability policy on a more sustainable footing given the significant levels of need for increased and more effective services and supports to enable people with a disability to live independent lives in their own community.

While Budget 2025, published on Tuesday the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025, announced a funding allocation of €25.76 billion to the Department of Health and a Disability Services Budget of over €3 billion, the granular detail regarding the allocation of funding for various services will not be known until the Service Plan for 2025 is published.

Yours Sincerely,



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

