



**Oifig an Stiúrthóir 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,  
First Floor- Offices 13, 14, 15,  
Roselawn House, University Business Complex,  
National Technology Park,  
Castletroy,  
Limerick.

26<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Deputy Peadar Tóibín,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
E-mail: [peadar.toibin@oireachtas.ie](mailto:peadar.toibin@oireachtas.ie)

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

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: 35152/24**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of service users currently availing of transport provided by each HSE funded adult disability service in each county; the number who are both waiting or who have requested transport to be provided to attend each of those same adult disability day services; and if he will put in place additional funding and resources in Budget 2025 for the provision of transport to adult disability services to meet the demand for those in need of it, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

**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.



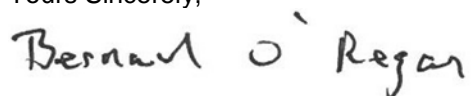
Acknowledging the need for appropriate accessible transport without which some people would not be able to access day services, the HSE works collaboratively with Day Service providers, the people attending the service and their families to find viable transport solutions. Many families transport their 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.

With regards to the numbers of people who are both waiting or who have requested transport to be provided, this information is not collated, however we can provide the following information:

- 84% of over 1,500 school leavers and RT leavers require some assistance with transport from provider or family or other.
- Approximately 20% of School Leavers referred to HSE each year require specialised transport and additional supports. This cohort are not in a position to travel independently on public transport, should it be available.
- 16% of 2023 School Leavers can travel independently to their day service location having received some Travel Training. They either live within walking distance of the location, or have access to a public transport route from their home to the day service location.
- 61 school leavers nationally, cited transport as the reason for non-agreement/non commencement of service in 2023. Negotiations for 2024 school leavers is currently under way, however, availability of transport has been cited as one the largest obstacles to young people when trying to access day services.

Yours Sincerely,



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

