

16th September 2024

Ms Pauline Tully T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2
D02 XR20

Re: PQ ref 35213/24 – Update on Service, Irish Wheelchair Association Cavan

“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth for an update on the situation with a service provided by the Irish Wheelchair Association in Cavan which, due to a lack of staff, was reduced to an outreach-only model; the actions he has taken to ensure full services are returned to Cavan; and if he will make a statement on the matter.” – Pauline Tully

Dear Deputy Tully,

I refer to your parliamentary question above which has been referred to me for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

I can advise that the Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA) Cavan has undertaken a rolling recruitment campaign over the past number of months, which has proven successful. The IWA has backfilled its current vacancies arising due to two staff members on long-term sick leave and one staff member on maternity leave. Two of the new staff have completed their induction training.

The reintroduction of in-person services commenced at IWA Cavan on the 22nd of August 2024. The IWA has advised that it is expected that every service user will receive one day of in-person service in the month in addition to the planned community outings, day trips and continuation of the Outreach Service.

The IWA Cavan is continuing with its recruitment campaign in order to fill vacancies that would have been previously filled, and/or supported in part, through Community Employment Scheme staff. IWA Cavan are advising that it cannot secure staff from this scheme any longer. Cavan Monaghan Disability Services has submitted a Business Case Proposal supporting the funding of 1.5 WTEs, due to the continued absence of Community Employment Scheme staff placements within the IWA. This Business Case is supported by the General Manager and has been escalated to senior HSE management for their consideration. The funding required is not currently available within the Community Healthcare Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo (CH CDLMS) Disability Services budget allocation. The funding required will be sought through the budgetary allocation process 2025.



Separately CH CDLMS Disability Services, via its Occupational Guidance team, has secured an increase of €45,000 for the two recent school leavers for whom IWA Cavan provide a Day Service. This funding will be recurring year on year.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edel Quinn', written in a cursive style.

Edel Quinn
Head of Service Disability CH CDLMS
Ceann na Seirbhíse Míchumas
Eagraíocht Chúram Sláinte Limistéar CDLMS