



**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.

10<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Deputy Fergus O'Dowd,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
E-mail: [fergus.odowd@oireachtas.ie](mailto:fergus.odowd@oireachtas.ie)

Dear Deputy O'Dowd,

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: 37828/24**

*To ask the Minister for Health the details of the total amount the HSE has spent on litigation, howsoever arising, against families of persons with disabilities where the person is a ward of court, over the past ten years; the breakdown of the category of litigation, to include injunctions, defamation proceedings and any other relevant details; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

**HSE Response**

The HSE has made enquiries to seek information to respond to the question asked.

The HSE Office of Legal Services (OLS) is involved in the management and review of all significant litigation concerning the HSE. The Office liaises between HSE management and external HSE legal service providers and in appropriate cases, provides the latter with instruction on how to conduct litigation or alternative dispute resolution on behalf of the HSE. The role of the Office also includes overseeing expenditure by the HSE on legal services including the standard and quantum of legal services provided to the HSE and where appropriate, querying and verifying charges for provision of these services. There is a contract in place with eight external legal firms to provide legal advice to the HSE.

We are advised that the category of families of persons with disabilities, who are Wards of Court in Ireland is very small. When persons are Wards of Court, there may be welfare enquires into their care (care provided by family or otherwise) or enquires into assets of the Ward but that isn't and could not be identified or categorised as litigation brought by the HSE against the families.

The OLS has confirmed that it has contacted all of it's contracted legal firms and they have confirmed that there has been no litigation of the nature outlined in the Parliamentary Question that the HSE has been party to.



However, it is suggested that if the Deputy has any further information or some further clarification regarding the question asked, it may assist the OLS to provide a response to the information being sought.

Contact details for HSE Office of Legal Services (OLS) is 01 7752248 or [ols@hse.ie](mailto:ols@hse.ie)

Yours Sincerely,

*Bernard O'Regan*

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

