



**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.

28<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Deputy Paul Donnelly,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
E-mail: [paul.donnelly@oireachtas.ie](mailto:paul.donnelly@oireachtas.ie)

Dear Deputy Donnelly,

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: 1416/25**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the locations of each assistive technology and specialised seating department within the State; if they are directly run by the HSE or are run on behalf of the HSE by another organisation; and the number and role of staff employed in each of these services.*

**HSE Response**

Assistive Technology & Specialised Seating (ATSS) is provided to people with a primary complex physical disability, or dual diagnosis (physical and intellectual disability), or a complex neurological and/or neuromuscular disorder.

Providers of ATSS include the HSE, the Central Remedial Clinic (CRC) and Enable Ireland.

**The Central Remedial Clinic (CRC)**

The CRC is a registered charity and receives funding from the HSE for the provision of services under Section 38 of the Health Act 2004.

Funding is through Services Arrangements and Community Healthcare Areas (CHOs) 9, 5, 4 and 3 within the Regional Healthcare Areas (RHAs) have service arrangements with the CRC.



The CRC ATSS department is a National Service with bases in Dublin, Limerick and Waterford and 15 outreach centres in other areas of the country. The ATSS department also has a comprehensive outreach clinical and technical programme, with special purpose vehicles if needed.

The CRC ATSS team is a multi-disciplinary team including senior physiotherapists, senior occupational therapists, senior speech and language therapists, clinical engineering technicians and administrators as follows:

- 2.5 Physiotherapists
- 9.5 Occupational Therapists
- 4 Clinical Engineers
- 1.5 Speech and Language Therapists
- 6.8 Administrators
- 4.5 Technicians

Provision is made for both custom and off the shelf solutions for clients and is fully compliant with Medical Devices Directives. ATSS applies a multidisciplinary approach to service delivery with clinical, technical and administrative staff playing key roles in overall service delivery. Client referrals are generally those with high level complex requirements, including severe physical limitations and disability, high risk pressure care and frequently health and safety issues.

The CRC provides services in most CHO areas including CHO 3, 5, 7, 8 and 9.

### **Enable Ireland**

Enable Ireland is a registered charity and receives funding from the HSE for the provision of services under Section 39 of the Health Act 2004.

Enable Ireland also provides assistive technology and specialised seating services in some CHO areas. Enable Ireland runs the Regional Physical Disability Support Service for CHO 4 which includes a complex seating clinic. Adults and children can access the Enable Ireland Seat Tech service (which is part of the National Assistive Technology service) on a referral basis with an outreach clinic operating in Tralee.

There is a Senior OT resource in this clinic.

With regard to children, Enable Ireland led CDNTs provide Assistive Technology services. This is a pathway operating within each individual CDNT and is not a department or specialist service.

Nationally, Enable Ireland's National Assistive Technology team consists of 6.6 WTE; 1.0 WTE Clinical, 3.0 WTE Technical and 2.6 WTE Admin/Management.

In CHO 2, services are provided by the HSE Primary Care Galway Wheelchair Service for adults with complex posture and mobility needs. The service is provided by 2.6 WTE Senior OT Wheelchair Service only (not ATSS)

For children with complex seating, mobility and postural needs, services are provided by the HSE Primary Care Galway Wheelchair Service for adults with complex posture and mobility needs (not ATSS). Staffing includes one WTE HSE Clinical Specialist OT). This is a Specialist support service to 5 Children's Disability Network Teams (Galway and South Roscommon).

One HSE Team runs an ATSS service in CHO 7 supported by CDNT staff, as required.



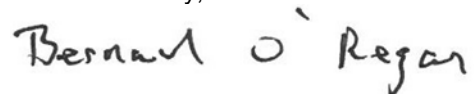
## **Aids and Appliances**

The HSE provides a range of aids, appliances and assistive technology for people who have a clinical requirement for devices which can support them in their daily living. The national list of devices and relevant prescribing criteria is available below.

The information and resources on this page are intended for clinicians who, in the course of their work, prescribe aids, appliances or assistive technology for people who are assessed as having a clinical need. It is important that the person's requirements are assessed appropriately before prescribing any device.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/2/primarycare/community-funded-schemes/aids-and-appliances/>

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernard O'Regan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear 'O' and 'R'.

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

