



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Bernard Durkan,  
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Dear Deputy Durkan,

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 No: 35153/10**

“To ask the Minister for Health and Children the current level of funding available to an organisation (details supplied) in County Kildare; if this is likely to be increased given increased demand by the organisation; and if she will make a statement on the matter.”

**HSE Response:**

The Health Service Executive recognises the valuable contribution the Jack and Jill Foundation makes to the provision of services to children with terminal conditions.

According to the HSE Annual Report, the Jack and Jill Foundation received funding amounting to €616,000 from the Health Service Executive in 2008, and €634,000 in 2009. The level of funding available to the Health Service Executive to provide disability services in 2010 is in the region of €1.4 billion (as identified in the Service Plan 2010). This represents a reduction in the level of funding provided in 2009 and therefore it is realistic to expect that there will be an ongoing requirement to improve the effectiveness of funding to disability services to ensure that the highest portion of funding possible is directed at frontline services and in the most efficient manner. Estimates for 2010 suggest that the Jack and Jill Foundation will receive funding of €556,652 in 2010. In addition, Jack & Jill Foundation have been allocated an additional €75,000 lottery grant for nursing post.

Reflecting the current economic situation the HSE must manage service levels within existing resources. Similarly, voluntary organisations face challenges in delivering efficiencies to ensure that services are delivered within the allocated budget. This is a challenge for all of us in the current environment but by working together and finding innovative ways to make savings we can help to protect services.

With this in mind, the Health Service Executive has been considering a number of initiatives to improve the efficiency of disability funding. These initiatives are designed to ensure that while it

may not be possible to provide the same level of funding to individual organisations as in previous years, it will still be possible to address the needs of people with disabilities through the re organisation of the way services are provided. Many individuals who avail of services from the Jack and Jill Foundation will also avail of services directly from the Health Service Executive and/or other disability service providers. Therefore, it is essential that organisations such as the Jack and Jill Foundation have models of service, which integrate with existing disability services in each area.

The Department of Health and Children is engaged in a VFM and policy review of disability services. This will review all expenditure on disability services in both statutory and non statutory agencies to ensure that the services delivered represent value for money and are designed to achieve the desired policy outcomes. The HSE is working with the Department of Health and Children in this review and the outcome of the review may influence the way services are funded in 2011.

The Minister of State at the Department of Health and Children (Mr John Moloney T.D.), together with the Minister for Health and Children (Ms. Mary Harney T.D.) and the HSE met with the Jack and Jill Foundation on Tuesday 12th October last. A wide a range of issues, including the request for additional funding was discussed. Minister Moloney and the HSE undertook to continue to engage with the Jack and Jill Foundation.



Ann Kennelly  
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c.c Parliamentary Affairs Division, Health Service Executive