



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

HSE South,
Community Services,
Coolnagarrane,
Skibbereen,
Co. Cork.

Tel: 028-40404
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27th February 2009

Ms. Mary Maquire
Meeting Administrator
Corporate Services Department
County Hall
Tallaght
Dublin 24

Re: Motion passed at meeting of South Dublin Council

Dear Ms. Maguire,

I refer to your letter dated 10th February to Professor Brendan Drumm, in relation to the motion passed at the County Council meeting held on 9th February 2009, which has been passed to me for response.

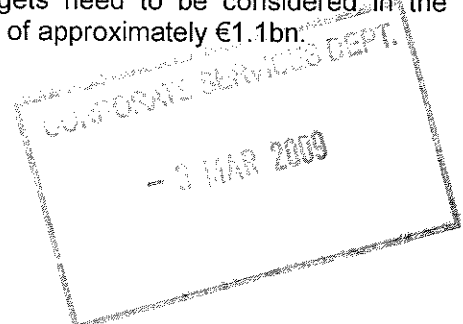
The motion refers to:

- 1% cut proposed in Budget 2009
- Restoration of 1% cut implemented in 2008
- Re-assignment of the funding in 2007 and 2008

The decision to implement a 1% reduction to voluntary organisations including, the Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI) providing services to people with disabilities in 2009 was made by Government. This was announced in the Budget 2009 in October as part of a number of measures designed to create increased efficiencies within the health services. There is a requirement on all public services to review all expenditure and the manner in which services are being delivered.

In achieving these efficiency savings, there is a particular focus on such areas as staff travel, absenteeism, recruitment and advertising and aggregating the purchase of goods and services across a number of organisations along with looking at opportunities to amalgamate non front line service provision. This may also involve looking at new ways to deliver services or greater collaboration between service providers in meeting the needs of people with disabilities in a cost effective manner. The guidelines for achieving the 1% efficiency saving has been agreed with the umbrella groups including DFI. Measures by which the savings will be achieved are to be agreed between relevant Local Health Office Staff and in particular these efficiencies are to be achieved without impacting significantly on service user experience.

In 2008 the HSE had introduced a similar efficiency savings target for disability service providers. This was part of a range of efficiency measures across all health services designed to ensure value for money and maximise the level of services that can be delivered within available resources. Again the aim was to require all providers to review non frontline expenditure areas outlined above. These efficiency targets need to be considered in the context of a budget for voluntary disability service providers of approximately €1.1bn.



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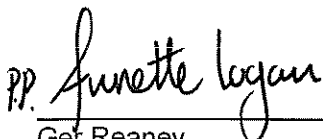
Any decision to reverse a budget direction is a matter for government.

In relation to previous disability funding, €75m was allocated to the HSE in 2007 under a Multi Annual Investment Programme (MAIP) which made provision for developments including additional residential, respite and day places for intellectual disability services, and additional residential and personal assistant/home support hours for physical and sensory disability services. This development funding also provided for additional therapy posts including speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and psychologists. These new service developments commenced on a phased basis in 2007, in order to allow time for assessment of need, prioritisation of service responses, staff recruitment and training, and acquisition of premises. Therefore the expenditure on those additional services in 2007 was less than the full year cost.

In 2008, €50m was allocated under the MAIP in respect to disability services. This will become a full year cost of €50m in 2009. As in 2007, these developments did not all commence at the beginning of the year and the cost of these services in 2008 was €33m. The balance at the beginning of 2008 was delivered to the Exchequer in 2008. However the full funding is available and will be used for these services in 2009.

The HSE acknowledges the ongoing commitment of DFI, both at national and local level, to maintaining the highest level of service possible in increasingly difficult financial circumstances and, the HSE continues to be available at both local and national level for continued engagement on how the maximum level of services can be delivered within available resources.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ger Reaney". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Ger Reaney
LHM Disabilities