



An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Social Protection

Green Paper on disability reform

09 November 2023



Minister Humphreys -Seanad 11/10/2023:

“There is no question of anybody having their payment reduced....many people will see significant increases in payment”

“This is about helping people who want to work”

“I have an open mind on this; if there are better ways tell us about them”

Context: Commitments and Strategies



Roadmap for Social Inclusion commitment 40

“Develop and consult on a ‘strawman’ proposal

Pathways to Work commitment 50

“..... recognise the continuum of disabilities and support employment.”

Make Work Pay Report

“.....paid via Domiciliary Care Allowance up to 18 years of age.”

Programme for Government

“use the (Cost of Disability report) research to properly inform the direction of future policy.”

Cost of Disability



- **Largest ever consultation**
- **Costs of disability ranged from €9,482 to €11,734 per annum**

“Any additional public expenditure in this area should be targeted on areas where high potential costs may be creating hardship, rather than spreading resources thinly”

“A high priority should be given to facilitating an increase in employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.”

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



- Key consideration in development of proposals
- Article 27: right to work on equal basis to others
- Article 28: right to an adequate standard of living and social protection
- Article 4(3): closely consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities in the development and implementation of legislation and policies

Key Metrics



- 2022 SILC: most **at risk of poverty** 35.2% Vs 5.8%
- **Employment gap**: 37% versus 73%
- OECD average is 40%
- Escalating costs and number of recipients

Scheme Trends



Scheme	Recipients 2018	Recipients 2022 (Dec 2022)	% Change	Expenditure 2018	Expenditure 2022 (provisional)	% Change
Disability Allowance	140,835	157,823	+12%	€1.59 billion	€2 billion (provisional)	+26%
Invalidity Pension	57,768	56,452	-2%	€694.21 million	€774 million	+11.5%
Blind Pension	1,176	1,007	-14%	€13.31 million	€12.6 million	-5%
Domiciliary Care Allowance*	42,779	56,123	+31%	€168.42 million	€227.4 million	+35%

Green Paper on disability reform



- Consultation document
- Not final design
- Aim to prompt discussion and suggestions
- Nothing is going to change now
- **Nobody will lose or have payment reduced**

Features of the Green Paper



1. Targeting of resources

- Contributory and non-contributory Personal Support Payment
- Three levels
 - based on needs
 - different payments
 - employment supports

Targeting of Resources



	Support needs/capacity to work	Rate of payment	Engagement with Public Employment Service
Tier 1	High support/very low capacity to work	State Pension Contributory rate, currently maximum rate €277.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Voluntary</u>, on request
Tier 2	Medium support/low to moderate capacity to work	Mid-way (€254.65)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactive Intreo • Intreo provide supports appropriate to person's circumstances.
Tier 3	Low support/moderate to high capacity to work	Disability Allowance rate (€232)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactive Intreo • Intreo provide supports appropriate to person's circumstances. • Engagement with Intreo

Features of the Green Paper



2. Remove Anomalies and Differences in System

- Common definition of disability
- Age: extend DCA to 18
- Common in-work support
- Single Personal Support Payment

Consultation



- Consultation Events:
 - 18 October - Stakeholder Consultation
 - 9 November - Public Consultation Dublin
 - 14 November - Public Consultation Cork
 - 23 November - Public Consultation Athlone
- Submissions
 - Details @ gov.ie/disabilitypaymentsreform
 - Accessible formats