

Tear out this letter, send it to the Oireachtas members in your constituency and have your voice heard.

If you have any personal details you would like to add in support of our ask, please feel free to write it in.

Dear [redacted]

My name is [redacted]

I am writing to you to ask you to support the Pre-Budget Submission of The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland.

MS Ireland has two primary asks for Budget 2024 which include:

An ask for sustainable funding for MS Ireland to deliver a national health promoting physical activity physiotherapy services for people with Multiple Sclerosis, and other neurological conditions at a total of €880,000 per annum

Currently many people with progressive neurological conditions in Ireland have little or no access to rehabilitation services and are low priority for physiotherapy in primary care. There is a void of post-acute and post-community interventions to promote patients' health through physical activity.

MS Ireland proposes a sustainable, specialist physiotherapy service to address this need using a blend of 'online' and 'in-person' programmes which provide a pathway of care from rehabilitation to community integration. Using data from a successful SláinteCare Integration Fund project in the Mid-West, this evidence-based service will provide physiotherapist led, health promoting exercise for people with neurological conditions through a national physiotherapy service across all nine HSE CHOs.

MS Ireland have forecasted that this investment would annually deliver 1,458 participants in group programmes and 3,726 individual appointments and could be rolled out in one national development, or in phased regional stages.

An ask to increase annual statutory investment in The National MS Respite Centre by €627,000

The National MS Respite Centre is a 12 bedded unit which provides respite care to people living with Multiple Sclerosis and other progressive neurological conditions.

MS Ireland are requesting €627,000 additional funding which would see The National MS Respite Centre open 350 days per year, providing an additional 1,248 bed nights annually. The National MS Respite Centre provides people living with Multiple Sclerosis, as well as other neurological conditions, and their caregivers a break and delivers a range of therapeutic services, neurological assessments, and social activities.

Further investment will not only support people living with Multiple Sclerosis and other neurological conditions, but will also support voluntary carers, without whom care in the home would be impossible, relieving further pressure on our health systems and hospital funding.

Please use the space below to add any additional information you may wish to share