



# 2024 Pre-Budget Submission

*Do Not Abandon Us!*



***Our Values:***

***Courage***

***Equality***

***Integrity***

***Excellence***

***Fun***

***Openness***

***Visionary***



**Together we are  
One IWA**

# Our Work at a Glance

Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA) is Ireland's leading representative organisation and service provider for people with physical disabilities.

People are at the heart of everything we do, and we work with and on behalf of our membership to drive positive change, empowering and supporting them to live the life they choose.





**IWA-Sport** supported **24 sports clubs** and supported athletes to compete at **8 international events**



**Community Centre Services** provided **90,240 days** of community services through our **59 centres**



**Daily Transport Services** for our centres using **127 accessible buses**



**1,865 Driving Lessons** for people with disabilities



**Approved Housing Body** managing **51 wheelchair accessible, affordable homes**



**Assisted Living Service** across Ireland for **2,143 adults and children**

**Quality Accreditation of IWA services** was completed by Astrum Consulting.

**The Astrum Consulting, Quality Assurance Audit Report 2022**, served to verify that **IWA services** continue to operate effective, safe, quality processes.



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# Introduction

## Our Pre-Budget Submission

This document has been prepared with and is the result of extensive consultation of approximately 1000 people with disabilities throughout Ireland.

**We are calling on the Government to hear our voices and make provisions for our community in the upcoming budget. One in four people in Ireland are living with a disability. As a population, we are living longer and as a result, the likelihood of acquiring a physical disability is higher.**

We are calling on Government leaders not to **ABANDON** people with disabilities in the budget.

We see department reports come and go with no action plan or resources put in place to implement them and it's time to **STOP**.

**The Cost of Disability Report** commissioned by the Department of Social Protection found that people with disabilities spend between €9,482 and €11,735 a year extra on expenses related to their disability. The annual income for a person in receipt of a disability payment is approximately €11,500. Couple that with the fact that a person with a disability is more likely to be unemployed you can understand why a high proportion of the disability community are living in poverty.

**The Disability Capacity Review to 2032 – A Review of Social Care Demand and Capacity to 2032** reports the estimated need and cost of providing essential services, some of which have not received any additional funding since 2008.

*A review that shows "Over the next ten years, the number of people with disabilities, their age groups, and where they are living, are all likely to change. Ireland needs to plan ahead to ensure that people with disabilities can get the right services, in the right place, at the right time."*

**National Housing strategy for disabled people 2022-2027.** The stated vision for the National Housing strategy is *"To facilitate disabled people to live independently with the appropriate choice and control over where, how and with whom they live, promoting their inclusion in the community. To further enable equal access for disabled people to housing with integrated support services. People with disabilities have been living in a permanent housing crisis."*

This submission reflects the needs and voices of the members of Irish Wheelchair Association. We are calling on you, our Government, to implement and resource your reports appropriately so that people with disabilities can contribute and belong to their communities. We want choice not charity.

**Do Not Abandon Us!**

## Sectoral Funding and Reform

The voluntary sector provides approximately two thirds of disability services on behalf of the state. These services enable people with disabilities to live independently, further their education and avail of much needed respite for themselves and their families who find themselves acting as carers.

**The HSE has previously reported that many voluntary disability services are not financially sustainable and identified this as a major risk on their corporate risk register.**

Several reports such as the Department of Health commissioned “Report of the Independent Review Group established to examine the role of voluntary organisations in publicly funded health and personal social services” and The HSE Corporate Plan 2021-24 name the need for multi-annual investment and reform of the disability sector in one of its six key objectives for the next four years. The Disability Capacity Review to 2032 – A Review of Social Care Demand and Capacity to 2032 gives us the estimated need and cost to provide essential services some of which have not received any additional funding since 2008.

### Recommendations

- Publish an Action Plan for the Disability Capacity Review and invest money to resource it.
- Provide multi-annual funding for Disability organisations delivering vital services on behalf of the Health Service Executive and the State.
- Eliminate underlying deficits when transferring budgets to the Department of Children, Inclusion Disability, Equality and Youth.
- Provide a dedicated funding stream to support the recommendations of the Report of the Independent Review Group.
- Initiate reform of the disability sector with meaningful consultation with stakeholders to enable Section 39 organisations to be adequately and sustainably funded to ensure continuity of vital disability service provision.
- Provide funding for full pay restoration for Section 39 organisations and return to alignment with HSE pay scales.



## Personal Assistant Services

The Disability Capacity Review was published last year with no action plan in place. In the review it shows that a Personal Assistant Service is not home help or a care package. The service enables a person with a disability to live their own life as they choose. Irish Wheelchair Association constantly sees the HSE trying to stretch hours in the personal assistant service due to the chronic lack of investment.

*“PA hours are used to get me up and to bed, as a person I’m much more than that.”*

### Individuals who receive a sufficient personal assistant service can:

- Live independently with dignity and respect.
- Participate in everyday activities like their peers e.g., work, social, sports etc.
- Contribute to society through social and economic participation.

### Individuals who do not receive a personal assistant service or receive an inadequate service:

- Depend on family members, often ageing parents, to support them, removing their opportunity to live with dignity and respect.
- Live in environments, which are unsafe due to their disability.
- Are trapped in their homes.
- Have no opportunity to participate in society or take up employment.
- Are discriminated against by society and treated as second-class citizens. They are condemned to live without the basic supports required to live a life of freedom and choice and without access to many of their human rights.

### UNCRPD Article 19 Living Independently and being included in the community states:

Persons with disabilities have access to a range of in-home, residential, and other community support services, including personal assistance necessary to support living and inclusion in the community, and to prevent isolation or segregation from the community.

### Recommendations

- Publish an action plan based on the findings in the Disability Capacity Review and allocate resources in Budget 2024.
- Provide funding to section 39 organisations to achieve pay parity across the sector to enable service providers to recruit and retain staff.
- A comprehensive piece of work to be commissioned through the Central Statistics Office to establish the unmet needs of personal assistant services.
- Establish a new framework and pricing for the provision of publicly funded home support services, including providing a disability funded personal assistant services.
- Implementation of the recommendations of the Report of the Strategic Workforce Advisory Group on Home Carers and Nursing Home Health Care Assistants, excluding the recommendation that all home care workers should be paid, at a minimum, the National Living Wage. Irish Wheelchair Association are seeking pay alignment with HSE staff.
- Progression of the Personalised Budget Pilot.

## Housing

*“I want to be happy, and I want to be proud of myself again and I live in hope, that someday I will get a phone call to say that I have a home. So many people are struggling like me to be independent and to live independently.”*

### **IWA member on social housing waiting list**

One of the core values promoted by Irish Wheelchair Association is independence; the aspiration and belief that people with a physical disability in Ireland can achieve their right to an independent life with equal access to opportunities, services and supports within their communities. Consequently, people should have the right to a home of their own. People with physical disabilities have always faced obstacles to find suitable housing accommodation. This is due to the lack of local authority planning and funding that should include a set number of appropriately designed, fully wheelchair accessible social housing within all social housing projects.

The wait time which is often 10 years or more for wheelchair accessible accommodation is unacceptable and leaves people with disabilities living in appalling conditions, with many who cannot gain access to their bathrooms. In 2020, 35% of people who identified disability need as their main criteria for applying for social housing are waiting seven years or more. (source: The Housing Agency)

The Irish Government is denying people with disabilities their right to equal opportunities when it comes to housing under three Articles in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities

*“There are not enough wheelchair liveable houses and the process in order to secure a house to live independently is very long and complicated, some people don’t have anyone to help them with this process and this is not taken into consideration.”*

*“I am worried that when my parents are no longer able to care for me, I will end up in a nursing home at a fairly young age which scares me.”*

**Article 19** of the Convention recognises the equal right of all persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community, with the freedom to choose and control their lives.

**Article 20** Personal Mobility: recognises that the state should take effective measures to ensure personal mobility with the greatest possible independence for persons with disabilities. This includes facilitating access for all persons with disabilities to quality mobility aids, devices, assistive technologies and forms of live assistance and intermediaries, including by making them available at affordable cost.

**Article 28** - Adequate standard of living and social protection, which includes the right to access housing programmes.

*“Housing is our great, great failure, it is no longer a crisis, it is a disaster.”*

**President Michael D. Higgins**

The housing situation for people with disabilities is a disaster. There are also vast levels of unregistered needs such as young people living with their parents with no prospect of moving out and others depending on elderly parents as carers. Disabled people are more exposed to the risk of homelessness than others. 27% of homeless persons have some form of disability. (Source: NDA Housing and Disability Factsheet December 2020.)

We are still awaiting the Implementation Plan for the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027.

**There are three core issues which prevent this strategy from delivering housing for people with disabilities:**

- (1) Part M of the Building Regulations 2010 does not include wheelchair liveable accommodation (UD++).
- (2) Access to the HSE support package that enables people to live independently.
- (3) The lack of funding for assistive technology.

### **Recommendations**

- Amend Part M (Section 3 Access and Use) of the Building Regulations 2010 – The regulations currently only provide for wheelchair visitable housing and not wheelchair liveable, resulting in homelessness for people with disabilities due to the lack of available social and private rented housing for wheelchair users in Ireland. Universal Design is not wheelchair liveable unless it is Universal Design ++.
- A percentage of houses reflecting the present and future needs in each housing development in Ireland must be designed to be wheelchair liveable. This would increase housing options for people with disabilities creating mixed tenure resulting in inclusive and sustainable communities. Wheelchair liveable houses are not wheelchair exclusive and can be used by all.
- Many people with disabilities need the support of a personal assistant to enable them to live independently in their own homes and communities. The Health Service Executive needs to work collaboratively with the local authorities to ensure that there is a personal assistant service in place in tandem with a person being allocated a house.
- The Housing Adaptation Grant must be reviewed. The household income means testing criteria and increase the maximum grant to reflect current building costs.
- Provide increased funding to Local Authorities for the Housing Adaptation Grant to facilitate larger adaptations such as additional ensuite accessible bedrooms and other adaptations.

**Irish Wheelchair Association is an approved housing body (AHB) and in 2022 we provided 51 wheelchair accessible and affordable homes, and tenancy support to people with limited mobility in Dublin, Kilkenny, Carlow, Tipperary, Mayo, Roscommon and Galway.**

## Day Services

IWA operates 59 community centre services across the country on a full-time, part-time and outreach basis. Centres provide a wide range of programmes and activities for our members with emphasis on the promotion of community engagement and active citizenship. Through a person-centred approach, services play a fundamental role in supporting many service users in achieving personal goals and objectives.

To ensure delivery of services, IWA centres rely heavily on the operation of DEASP funded Community Employment (CE) Schemes. In recent years IWA has experienced depleted CE schemes, reduced numbers available for recruitment and a lack of suitability for health care related positions.

The CE recruitment remains a significant challenge to front-line service delivery. IWA continues to proactively engage with the HSE in all Community Health Organisation (CHO) areas identifying the issue and potential impact on service delivery within a "Service Continuance Risk" context.

- Community Employment payroll for Feb 2023 equated to 230 participants, reflecting a 52% vacancy rate.
- Recruitment and retention are an issue for Community Supports (as with Assisted Living Services), with pay parity being the biggest issue.
- Our dependency on CE and the declining numbers of participants available could have an impact on our ability to deliver services.

*"When staff leave and you have to replace them, I find it difficult, you are just getting to know someone and the next thing is they are gone."*

*"Staff love working here but with the rising cost of living staff are going to be looking elsewhere, not because they want to but we need better pay."*

**UNCRPD Article 19:** Living independently and being included in the community States Parties to the present Convention recognise the equal right of all persons with disabilities to live in the community, with choices equal to others, and shall take effective and appropriate measures to facilitate full enjoyment by persons with disabilities of this right and their full inclusion and participation in the community, including by ensuring that: Persons with disabilities have access to a range of in-home, residential, and other community support services, including personal assistance necessary to support living and inclusion in the community and to prevent isolation or segregation from the community.

### Recommendations

- Appropriate multi annual funding to sustain day services and to plan for expanding need in the future.
- Change the allocation of funding from Community Employment Schemes to Core funding.

## Transport

Many people with disabilities are left isolated in their own home due to the lack of accessible transport. This isolation can happen whether a person lives in a rural or urban setting while living alone or with family.

Transport is key to people with physical disabilities realising their independence. When it comes to holding down a job, socialising or going on holidays just getting there can often be the greatest challenge to overcome.

*“Rural transport at times is completely inaccessible, limited to overpriced taxi services that more often than not are not available.”*

*“We would like to see what Ireland signed up to Re; UN rights of person with disability implemented and not just another empty promise or tick box.”*

Article 9: Accessibility - To enable persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure persons with disabilities have access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communication.

### Recommendations

- The continued commitment to implement recommendations from the Committee on Transport, Tourism and Sport “Accessibility of Public Transport for People with Disabilities” November 2018.
- To immediately progress the review of the Disabled Drivers and Passengers Scheme and other supports so that people can afford to buy an adapted car. The Motorised Transport Grant and the Mobility Allowance were ended in 2007 with the promise of new legislation and a replacement of a fairer scheme, this has not happened.
- Given the cost of fuel an increase in the fuel exemption must be introduced immediately.
- Continue to implement measures to reach the target of a fully accessible taxi fleet.
- Apply a large weighting to taxi operators with accessible vehicles in tender processes when awarding state contracts.
- The Travel Assistance Scheme needs to be rolled out as a nationwide scheme that responds to the needs of people with disabilities in their own locality thus enabling people to build their confidence when using public transport.

*“I live in a rural area and have no real access to transport, it stops me from being independent, my education and opportunities for employment are non-existent.”*

**Irish Wheelchair Association has a fleet of 127 buses working across our 59 centres nationwide. In 2022 we provided 1,865 lessons and assessed 289 clients in our driving centres.**

## Department of Social Protection

*“I was successful in gaining employment in the public service but wanted part-time, they only offered me full-time, so I took a human rights case against them (I had a Masters in Human Rights which helped!) and I won. I am now working part-time for them, after they dragged their heels saying, they couldn’t find anything for me.”*

**Laura, Ability Programme Participant.**

## Employment and the Cost of Disability

The European Commission Country Report for Ireland 2019 revealed that Ireland has one of the lowest employment rates for people with disabilities in the EU (26.2% compared to 48.1% in the EU in 2017).

In Ireland, a person with a disability is just over half as likely to be employed as a non-disabled peer, according to a study published by the employers’ group Ibec. This report also states that Ireland’s rate of employment amongst people with disabilities is half the European average, and the gap between the employment rate of people with and without disabilities is also the second widest in the EU.

The report says 36.5% of people (aged 15-64) with a disability are at work, compared to 72.8% of people without a disability.

The fourth edition of the European Disability Forum’s Human Rights Report showed the situation faced by people with disabilities has worsened since 2010 in 11 EU countries - including Ireland.

Using previously published data, it showed that 38.1% of people with disabilities in Ireland are at risk of poverty and social exclusion, the fifth worst among the European countries ranked in the report. Only Bulgaria and the three Baltic states of Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia have a worse percentage. During COVID the Pandemic Unemployment Payment set out a weekly standard of living payment at €350 but a person with a disability is expected to live on €220. In a government report published by Indicon people with disabilities spend between €9,482 per annum to €11,734 a year extra relating to their disability, a disability payment annually is worth €11,024.

*“In households with social welfare only incomes we struggle. The disability payments are too low. We can’t access jobs due to lack of transport or supports but we can’t afford to live on the welfare payment alone.”*

*“The extra cost of living with a disability is never taken into consideration, extra heating, extra travel expense.”*

#### UNCRPD Article 27: Work and employment

1. States Parties recognise the right of persons with disabilities to work on an equal basis with others; this includes the right to the opportunity to gain a living by work freely chosen or accepted in a labour market and work environment that is open, inclusive, and accessible to persons with disabilities. States Parties shall safeguard and promote the realization of the right to work, including for those who acquire a disability during employment, by taking appropriate steps, including through legislation, to, inter alia.

#### Recommendations

1. Publish an action plan and allocate resources to support the findings of the Cost of Disability Report.
2. Establish the principle of a cost of disability payment in this year’s Budget. Budget 24 should not be passed without implementing the findings of this report.
3. Social Welfare rates need to be increased to reflect the rising cost of living.
4. Fulfil the promise in the Programme for Government to double the target for employment of people with disabilities in the public service to 6%.
5. Set aside funding to promote disability awareness and diversity training amongst employers and to ensure that employers have sound information on supports and funding available to them.

## Department of Sports, Culture and Arts

*"I would love to be able to take part in sports to see if I am any good, I watch my friends picking different sports to try out and there is nothing for me, I feel so excluded."*

**John, 17, wheelchair-user**

Irish Wheelchair Association-Sport promotes, develops, and provides opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in a wide variety of sport and recreational activities, at a level appropriate to their needs, whether they are five or one hundred and five years of age. Our aim is to facilitate and enable members to participate and enjoy the benefits of sport and physical activity as an experience that is equivalent to their able-bodied peers. This requires access to facilities, specialist equipment, coaching, events, and expert support at both local, national, and international level.

Sport is the best 'medication' we can prescribe to our members as it has a huge positive impact in their lives. The physical benefits include improvements in general health, physical fitness, bone metabolism and increased functional independence. Members who are physically active in sport have increased mobility and a reduction in risk of chronic disease and secondary complications. The social benefits of sport are endless, including networking opportunities to meet new friends, a positive impact on mental health, a greater sense of belonging and greater independence.

Often, we provide the only access to physical activity for our members, who without our services can find it difficult to access and play an active role in our society.

### **UNCRPD Article 30: Participation in Cultural Life, Recreation, Leisure and Sport.**

1. States Parties recognise with a view to enabling persons with disabilities to participate on an equal basis with others in recreational, leisure and sporting activities, States Parties shall take appropriate measures:
  - a) To encourage and promote the participation, to the fullest extent possible, of persons with disabilities in mainstream sporting activities at all levels.
  - b) To ensure that persons with disabilities have an opportunity to organise, develop and participate in disability-specific sporting and recreational activities and, to this end, encourage the provision, on an equal basis with others, of appropriate instruction, training and resources.
  - c) To ensure that persons with disabilities have access to sporting, recreational and tourism venues.
  - d) To ensure that children with disabilities have equal access with other children to participation in play, recreation and leisure and sporting activities, including those activities in the school system.
  - e) To ensure that persons with disabilities have access to services from those involved in the organisation of recreational, tourism, leisure and sporting activities.



## Recommendations

1. Additional funding is required to support the Performance programme which would allow our national teams in wheelchair basketball, wheelchair rugby, para powerlifting, and para athletics compete at the highest levels internationally i.e. European, World and Paralympic level. Currently these programmes are not defined as High Performance within the Sport Ireland definition and athletes are levied 90% of the associated training and competition costs annually.
2. The Irish Sports Sector has benefitted from additional statutory funding in recent years namely from the Dormant Accounts fund which is specifically aimed at supporting disadvantaged groups and specifically disability sport in this context. Whilst welcomed, the nature of the Dormant Accounts fund is that there will be a specific lifetime to its availability. A more long-term sustainable model of funding is required to support the Irish Sports sector in Ireland to deliver programmes specifically aimed at catering for people with a disability.
3. The Sports Capital programme is essential to support the provision of sports programmes for people with physical disabilities. Specifically, the funding has enabled IWA to ensure the provision of sports wheelchairs for our athletes which are both expensive and 'personal' in nature, whereas typically 'non-personal equipment' is specifically supported in the scheme. More and continued recognition must be given to the fact that people with physical disabilities require more support in terms of sports equipment such as sports wheelchairs, walking/running frames, athletics throwing frames, storage, and that this equipment is typically more expensive than 'regular' sports equipment for able-bodied athletes. Additionally, indoor, and outdoor facilities and infrastructure need continued investment to ensure levels of accessibility are of the highest standards. This includes sports centres, gyms, public parks, greenways, playgrounds, and beaches.



**Irish Wheelchair Association - Sport has approximately 3,000 members nationwide with membership ranging from Paralympians to junior members aged 5 years.**

# Pre-Budget Submission 2024 Summary



**2024**  
**Pre-Budget**  
**Submission**  
*Do Not Abandon Us!*

## Our Pre-Budget Submission

This document has been prepared with and is the result of extensive consultation of approximately 1000 people living with a physical disability across Ireland.

**We are calling on the Government to hear our voices and make provisions for our community in the upcoming budget. One in four people in Ireland are living with a disability. As a population, we are living longer and as a result, the likelihood of acquiring a physical disability is higher.**

We are calling on Government leaders not to **ABANDON** people with disabilities in the budget.

We see department reports come and go with no action plan or resources put in place to implement them and it's time to **STOP**.

**The Cost of Disability Report** commissioned by the Department of Social Protection found that people with disabilities spend between €9,482 and €11,735 a year extra on expenses related to their disability.

The annual income for a person in receipt of a disability payment is approximately €11,500. Hence, a high proportion of the disability community is living in poverty.

**The Disability Capacity Review to 2032** – A Review of Social Care Demand and Capacity to 2032 reports the estimated need and cost of providing essential services, some have not received any additional funding since 2008. A review that shows *“Over the next ten years, the number of people with disabilities, their age groups, and where they are living, are all likely to change. Ireland needs to plan ahead to ensure that people with disabilities can get the right services, in the right place, at the right time.”*

**The National Housing Strategy for disabled people 2022-2027 states that its vision is** *“To facilitate disabled people to live independently with the appropriate choice and control over where, how and with whom they live, promoting their inclusion in the community.”*

**We have seen no action on any of these Government reports.**

**We want choice, not charity.**

## SECTORAL FUNDING

### Recommendations

- Publish an Action Plan for the Disability Capacity Review and invest money to resource it.
- Provide multi-annual funding for Disability organisations delivering vital services on behalf of the Health Service Executive and the State.
- Eliminate underlying deficits when transferring budgets to the Department of Children, Inclusion Disability, Equality and Youth.
- Provide a dedicated funding stream to support the recommendations of the Report of the Independent Review Group.
- Initiate reform of the disability sector with meaningful consultation with stakeholders to enable Section 39 organisations to be adequately and sustainably funded to ensure continuity of vital disability service provision.
- Provide funding for full pay restoration for Section 39 organisations and return to alignment with HSE pay scales.

## PERSONAL ASSISTANTS

### Recommendations

- Publish an action plan based on the findings in the Disability Capacity Review and allocate resources in Budget 2024.
- Provide funding to section 39 organisations to achieve pay parity across the sector to enable service providers to recruit and retain staff.
- A comprehensive piece of work to be commissioned through the Central Statistics Office to establish the unmet needs of personal assistant services.
- Establish a new framework and pricing for the provision of publicly funded home support services, including providing a disability funded personal assistant services.
- Progression of the Personalised Budget Pilot.

## HOUSING

### Recommendations

- Amend Part M (Section 3 Access and Use) of the Building Regulations 2010 – The regulations currently only provide for wheelchair visible housing and not wheelchair liveable, resulting in homelessness for people with disabilities due to the lack of available social and private rented housing for wheelchair users in Ireland. Universal Design is not wheelchair liveable unless it is Universal Design +/++.
- Many people with disabilities need the support of a personal assistant to enable them to live independently in their own homes and communities. The HSE needs to work collaboratively with the local authorities to ensure that there is a personal assistant service in place in tandem with a person being allocated a house.
- The Housing Adaptation Grant must be reviewed. The household income means testing criteria need to be reduced and increase the maximum grant to reflect current building costs.

## TRANSPORT

### Recommendations

- Immediately progress the review of the Disabled Drivers and Passengers Scheme and other supports so that people can afford to buy an adapted car. The Motorised Transport Grant and the Mobility Allowance were ended in 2007 with the promise of new legislation and a replacement of a fairer scheme, this has not happened.
- Given the cost of fuel an increase in the fuel exemption must be introduced immediately.
- Apply a large weighting to taxi operators with accessible vehicles in tender processes when awarding state contracts to encourage more companies to have wheelchair Accessible Vehicles as part of their fleet.

## DAY SERVICES

### Recommendations

- Appropriate multi annual funding to sustain day services and to plan for expanding need in the future.
- Change the allocation of funding from Community Employment Schemes to Core funding.

## SOCIAL PROTECTION

### Recommendations

- Publish an action plan and allocate resources to support the findings of the Cost of Disability Report.
- Establish the principle of a cost of disability payment in this year's Budget. Budget 24 should not be passed without implementing the findings of this report.
- Social Welfare rates need to be increased to reflect the rising cost of living.
- Fulfil the promise in the Programme for Government to double the target for employment of people with disabilities in the public service to 6%.

## SPORT

### Recommendations

- Provide additional funding to support the IWA-Sports performance programme which would allow our national teams in wheelchair basketball, wheelchair rugby, para powerlifting, and para athletics to compete at the highest levels internationally i.e. European, World and Paralympic level.
- Establish a long-term sustainable model of funding to support the Irish Sports sector to deliver programmes specifically aimed at catering for people with a disability.
- Recognise and provide for the extra cost of specialised equipment for people with physical disabilities in the Sports Capital programme.





Irish Wheelchair Association  
Blackheath Drive, Clontarf, Dublin 3. D03 AW62.  
Tel: 01 818 6400 | Email: [info@iwa.ie](mailto:info@iwa.ie)  
Charity Regulatory Authority CRA 20007997