

April 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

My child is privately enrolled in Release Communication Intervention, a programme, encompassing Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Exercises, Oral Motor Therapy and Early Intervention, designed to teach us parents the skills we need to enhance our children's communication skills.

I have been involved in all aspects of my child's therapy, from their assessment and weekly one hour of therapy to the half hour of homework we try to do together each night.

My child has benefited greatly because of the skills I've learned, and I'm thrilled that I now know different techniques to help my child.

I believe this government should review the Release Programme in great detail, with a view to providing this as a government sponsored service.

The Disability Act 2005 clearly states it is "an act to enable provision to be made for the assessment of health and education needs occasioned to persons with disabilities by their disabilities, to enable ministers of the government to make provision, consistent with the resources available to them and their obligations in relation to their allocation, for services to meet those needs, to provide for the preparation of plans by the appropriate ministers of the government in relation to the provision of certain of those, and certain other services..."

I believe Release can provide the provision of assessments; can provide services to meet those assessment needs; and is a resource which should be made available to the HSE as the current structure is insufficient to meet the needs of my child.

I look forward to seeing Release paid for by this government.

Sincerely,

Name:

Address:

Please send the letter to:

Tánaiste and Minister for Health and Children
Mary Harney, T.D.
Government Buildings
Upper Merrion Street
Dublin 2

Minister for Finance
Brian Cowen, T.D.
Government Buildings
Upper Merrion Street
Dublin 2

Minister of State, Senior Counsel
Brian Lenihan, T.D.
Department of Health and Children
Hawkins House
Dublin 2

Frances Spillane
Assistant Secretary
Office of the Minister for Children
Hawkins House
Dublin 2

Liam O'Callaghan
Local Health Manager
Central Office
Arden Rd
Tullamore
Co. Offaly

James O'Grady
National Manager for Disability Services
HSE
31/33 Catherine St
Limerick