

Country: **Ireland**

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Background of the legislation for PA Services	There is no PA legislation in Ireland, most of the effort of the nineties and eighties by the IL movement in Ireland was in trying to ringfence PA funding. There was a degree of success in this. Quite a significant budget, from zero to 25/30 million was achieved, but the ringfencing was not water tight. Legislation was sought by the wider disability movement and it focused more on disability and human rights legislation. Although much progress was made there was a compromise arrangement from the Government in 2006, which was the development of a disability strategy and better identification of needs and assessment starting with zero to five initially. Great anticipation soon deflated by economy downturn. The work of this group now is trying to keep government focus and some budget for the disability strategy implementation which very often stalls and becomes less money.
Type of legislation	N/A
Administrator of PA services	The organizations administering personal assistance are: CILs, Enable Ireland and the Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA). These are alternative direct payment systems where the leader becomes the direct employer and invoices the service provider or funding agency.
Funder of services	The Health Services Executive (HSE) and the FAS Community Employment (CE) Schemes are funding existing services.
Disabilities covered	In general all disability is covered when there is a need of personal assistance.
Amount of hours per day/week possible	Hours covered depend on the individual person's needs and the level of disability, as well as the environment and if the person is employed. Hours are provided on a weekly basis. Some people have 24-hour personal assistance, with four or more personal

	assistants being hired.
Assessment of needs: tool and how often	<p>Work leaders are assessed every 3 years, with personal assistants being trained every 3 years.</p> <p>Training is ongoing with a repeat on some of the mandatory training every three years. The mandatory training is provided by the organization with at least one formal training of Independent Living. Ongoing IL training is on the job.</p>
Hourly rate funded	<p>There are four different pay rates, normal hours, 8 – 20 Monday to Saturday, (€12.50 - €15.00), 20 - 24 hours Monday to Saturday (€16.00 - €18.50), Sunday time and a half, approximately €21.00 - €24.00 per hour. Public holiday payment which is double pay, €28.00 - €31.00 per hour. Night rate is the same as normal hour rate and is paid only five hours of the eight; that's for disturbed sleepover. Non-disturbed sleepover receives three hours pay at normal rate.</p>
Age requirement	Initially the services are only available to people over 16 and under 65, however this age range is expanding, of course subject to funding.
Total of Registered users in the country	Not available until late this year.