

Guidance Note: Supporting a Friend or Family Member to Write to Their TDs About Budget 2027

This short guide is for friends, family members, or support staff who want to help a person with an intellectual disability share their views with their local TDs about Budget 2027. Everyone's voice matters. Here's how you can support people with an intellectual disability to have their say.

Start with a Conversation

- Ask the person what matters most – public services, housing, education, work, or other supports.
- Talk about why the Budget is important: it decides how much money is spent on disability services each year.
- Use simple language and speak about what a TD does. (you could say “TDs are people we elect to make laws/decisions for our community”).
- Respect the person's choices.

Prepare Together

- Go through Inclusion Ireland's Easy Read guide or key points about what we are asking for in Budget 2027.
- Help and support the person to pick one or two issues that matter most to them.
- Write about the person's experiences in a few short sentences – this makes the letter personal and powerful.

Support With Writing or Typing

- You can help type or write the email/letter but support the person to use their own words where possible.
- You can use bullet points or short sentences.
- Read the letter back to the person and check they are happy with what it says before sending.

Example Email

Subject: Budget 2027 and People with Intellectual Disabilities' Needs

Dear Deputy **[TD's Surname]**,

My name is **[Name]**. I live in **[local area/constituency]**. I am writing to ask you to support more funding for **[chosen issue]**. This is important to me **because [short personal story, 2 – 3 lines]**.

Please raise this with the Minister for **[relevant Department]** and support better services for people with intellectual disabilities.

Thank you for your time, Deputy **[TD's surname]**. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

[Name]

Finding the TDs

- Log on to www.ContactYourTD.ie or www.Oireachtas.ie/en/members to find your constituency and local TDs.

Sending the Email or Letter

- You can access the template email [here](#).
- Aim to send the email or letter **before 25th September 2027** so TDs have time to raise these issues before the Budget is announced.
- Let the person know they have done something important by sharing their views with their elected representative.

If You Receive a Reply

- Read the reply together and explain what the TD has said. For example, a TD might say: “I will raise this with the Minister” or “I will contact you after the Budget.”
- Support the person to think about next steps:
 - Say thank you to the TD.
 - Share the reply with Inclusion Ireland so we know what TDs are saying.
 - Decide if they want to write back or meet the TD in person.

Need Help?

If you have any questions or need support, email info@inclusionireland.ie and we'll be happy to help.