



## **Pre-Budget 2027 Forum**

### **Department of Social Protection**

Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre (Pavee Point) is a national non-governmental organisation committed to the attainment of human rights for Irish Travellers and Roma in Ireland. Established in 1985, the organisation comprises Travellers, Roma and members of the majority population working in partnership to address the needs of Travellers and Roma, who as minority ethnic groups experience exclusion and marginalisation. The aim of Pavee Point is to contribute to improvement in the quality of life and living circumstances of Irish Travellers and Roma by working for social justice, solidarity and human rights.

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## Pre-Budget 2027 Forum

We call on the Government to honour its commitments to Traveller and Roma equality through ring-fenced investment in Budget 2027 in the context of existing policy frameworks and Programme for Government Commitments.

### **1. National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy II (NTRIS II) Implementation**

NTRIS II represents one of the State's core policy commitments to addressing persistent inequalities experienced by Travellers and Roma across health, education, employment, accommodation and other inclusion areas. Despite its ambition, implementation has been chronically under-resourced since the strategy's inception.

We are **calling for a dedicated, ring-fenced implementation fund for the NTRIS II in Budget 2027 with an increase of 20% to the current annual NTRIS implementation budget.** We believe an increase of 20% is realistic, aligns with the Government's wider commitments on equality and anti-poverty, and is large enough to fund expansion. This funding must be accompanied by a transparent budget allocation for each state department and agency assigned with implementation responsibility; cross-departmental accountability mechanism; and a published annual expenditure report to ensure that allocations translate into measurable outcomes for Travellers and Roma.

### **2. National Traveller Health Action Plan and Upcoming Roma Health Action Plan**

Traveller life expectancy remains dramatically lower than the general population — by up to 15 years for men — and Traveller mental health and suicide rates continue to constitute a public health crisis. The Traveller Health Action Plan provides a framework for addressing these stark inequalities, but its impact is constrained by insufficient resourcing.

The current annual budget for the Traveller Health Action Plan represents a starting point. We are **calling for a dedicated, ring-fenced implementation fund for the National Traveller Health Action Plan in Budget 2027 with an increase of 35% to its annual budget.** This increase is required to fund the full and meaningful implementation of the Action Plan, strengthen, support and sustain Traveller Primary Health Care Projects, strengthen workforce planning- recruitment and retention , and roll out of the Traveller Mental Health Action Plan with a dedicated ringfenced figure allocated towards its implementation.

The State is currently developing the first ever Roma Health Action Plan. This is welcomed in the context of the significant inequalities experienced by Roma in Ireland. It is estimated that the Roma Health Action Plan will be completed by the end of 2026. We **call for an adequate and ringfenced budget to be secured and allocated for the implementation of the Roma Health Action Plan in 2027.**

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### **3. National Traveller and Roma Education Strategy and Upcoming Roma Education Action Plan**

Educational disadvantage remains one of the most entrenched barriers facing Traveller and Roma communities. Barriers in terms of access, retention and attainment across all education levels continue to contribute to low educational outcomes. The National Traveller and Roma Education Strategy sets out a pathway for change, but this requires adequate and sustained investment.

The current annual budget for the Traveller and Roma Education Strategy represents a starting point. We **call for a dedicated, ring-fenced implementation fund for the Traveller and Roma Education Strategy in Budget 2027 with an increase of 25%**. This increase is inclusive of a dedicated budget line for the initial implementation of the forthcoming Roma Education Action Plan, a specific and targeted measure that is essential given the distinct experiences and barriers facing Roma learners.

### **4. Civil Service Traveller and Roma Placement Programme**

The Traveller Roma Work Placement Programme is a valuable initiative that has the potential to create mainstream pathways to employment for Travellers and Roma. However, its current scale falls far short of the level of need across communities, and without further investment it will remain a marginal intervention rather than a transformative one.

We are **calling for the target for the Civil Service Traveller and Roma Placement Programme to be scaled up with a 15% increase in placements in Budget 2027**. This investment would allow the programme to expand its reach, increase the number of placements available, strengthen wraparound support for participants, and build the employer relationships necessary for sustainable labour market inclusion.