



To Whom it May Concern,

The person in possession of this letter is a member of the Autism Community and we would appreciate your understanding in facilitating their needs at this time. Many autistic people and their families are concerned about the legal enforcement of travel restrictions during Level 4 or Level 5 restrictions. Some individuals may not cope if unable to keep to a routine such as visiting a favourite place or going on a particular drive.

To support members of our community at this time, AsIAM wishes to draw your attention to the 'essential purposes' exception of the 5km limit for travel relevant to our community.

“For vital family reasons, such as providing care to children, elderly or vulnerable people, and in particular for those who live alone, as part of an extended household but excluding family visits.”

The Department of Health previously acknowledged that ***“this would also provide for those people with disabilities and/or their carers who might have additional needs in relation to access to outdoor breaks and time. The situations that you outline in relation to going for a drive would reasonably be included here as well.***

If required, local service providers can provide a letter* to parents/carers confirming that the person is a service user with special needs and would benefit from additional outdoor breaks for health reasons.

We know that Gardai will take a pragmatic approach in these situations.”

AsIAM appreciates your understanding in facilitating the needs of the person(s) concerned at this time.

Kind Regards,
The AsIAM Team

** During this period many people may not have access to their service providers. Proof of diagnosis can also be in the form of an assessment report, a letter from GP or health professional, a letter from school, an AsIAM ID card or a Carers card.*