



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

National Population Health Directorate
Health Service Executive HQ
Oak House, Lime Tree Avenue
Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare

Tel: 045 882 520 Fax: 1890 200 893

18th February 2008

Deputy Noel O'Flynn T.D.
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: Parliamentary Question – 4525/08 Irish Osteoporosis Society

To ask the Minister for Health and Children if she will provide core funding for the Irish Osteoporosis Society in 2008; and if she will make a statement on the matter
- Noel O'Flynn

Dear Deputy,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which was forwarded to the Health Service Executive Parliamentary Affairs Division for attention.

The Irish Osteoporosis Society (IOS) was established in 1996 dedicated to reducing the instances of Osteoporosis, a preventable bone disease in most cases, and promoting bone health. The IOS provides information to the public and health professionals on all aspects of the disease and offers support to people with osteoporosis and everyone at risk from the disease. The IOS has sought grant aid from the Population Health Directorate.

The Population Health Directorate of the HSE seeks to improve the health of the population by targeting health inequalities and addressing the factors that determine health. The Health Promotion Assistant Directorate provides individuals and communities with opportunities to achieve and maintain good health. It also addresses factors and conditions that have an influence on health that are generally outside the control of the individual. It works closely with other sectors. This includes voluntary bodies, which it grant-aids in some of their relevant activities and projects.

In 2005, the Health Promotion Unit of the Department of Health and Children transitioned the funding of Voluntary Bodies to the Population Health Directorate. The Health Promotion Assistant Directorate has continued to administer the commitments made by the Department prior to the transition. Service Level Agreements are negotiated with the Bodies, as appropriate, to set out the activities to be grant-aided. The funding transitioned did not include an amount for the IOS.

Once-off funding for the IOS of €250,000 was allocated by the Department of Finance in 2007. This was administered through the Population Health Directorate of the HSE. The Service Level Agreement for 2007 agreed between the HSE and the IOS set the following objectives:

- to develop and Osteoporosis and bone health lo-Call telephone help line and information database
- to launch a new website by Oct 2007
- to support earlier detection and prevention of Osteoporosis in the wider community



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- educate and inform healthcare professionals
- co-ordinate a range of awareness campaigns at national and local level
- avail of opportunities to promote Osteoporosis in other generic health materials.

Funding for the IOS has not been identified in the allocation to the HSE for 2008.

The HSE has developed a management framework for services provided by the non-statutory sector and is currently developing an Implementation Plan to roll out this framework. This will set out in detail the grant process which will be applicable to all voluntary bodies seeking funding from the Directorate.

I trust this answers your question, but if you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Patrick Doorley
National Director of Population Health