



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

An Oifig Náisiúnta don Chuimsiú
Sóisialta
Rannóg Cúram Príomhúil
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse
Sláinte
Lána an Mhuilinn
Baile Phámar
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National Social Inclusion Office
Primary Care Division
Health Service Executive
Mill Lane
Palmerstown
Dublin 20

25th July, 2017

Deputy Peadar Tóibín
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ 33806/17

* To ask the Minister for Health the amount of money that is spent on the provision of methadone; the number of persons in receipt of methadone currently; the number of persons annually that are engaged with methadone programmes that become drug free including methadone free on an annual basis; the amount of money which is spent on the provision of methadone in the prison service; and the number of persons in receipt of methadone in the prison service.

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to your above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position:

As of the end of June 2017 there were 10,112 patients receiving methadone treatment of which 469 were being treated in prison settings.

The below table provides a summary of successful methadone completion numbers, that is, those who successfully came off the programme year by year from 2010 to 2016. Opiate addiction is a chronic relapsing condition and multiple entries are common. Success and failure are relative terms and maintaining contact with health services, including methadone programmes, is a goal, until such time as people positively opt for recovery programmes. Use of a unique patient identifier would enable success to be more accurately measured in a cost efficient manner.

Table Summary regarding methadone completion numbers, that is, those who successfully came off the programme year by year from 2010 to 2016

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Treatment Successfully Completed	827	781	784	650	710	773	701

Figures on the cost of methadone treatment via a clinic setting are not readily available as currently this cost is absorbed within the overall Addiction services area budget. However the full year spend in 2016 for Methadone Prescribing via GMS Doctors and Pharmacies who dispense Methadone under the methadone programme was €21.106m.

Costs in relation to methadone treatment in prisons is a matter for the Irish Prison Service.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Doyle', written in a cursive style.

Joseph Doyle
National Planning Specialist