



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
Baile Átha Cliath 20

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National Social Inclusion Office
Primary Care Division
Health Service Executive
Mill Lane
Palmerstown
Dublin 20

4th October, 2017

Deputy Róisín Shortall,
Dáil Eireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 39503/17

*To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons receiving opioid maintenance treatment; the number of years they have been receiving an opioid substitute, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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:

Central Treatment List Summary Breakdown for Length of time in Methadone Treatment Report for Patients registered		
Years in treatment	as at 31 st of December 2015	as at 31 st of December 2016
10yrs +	3640	3754
5yrs +	5768	5834
3yrs +	6917	7063
2yrs +	7664	7802
1yr +	8587	8804
Total in Treatment	9940	10087

The above table shows that as of December 2015, 37% of patients in methadone treatment were in treatment for longer than 10 years with 58% of patients being in treatment for 5 years or more. While the numbers at the end of December 2016 have increased the percentages of more than 10 years and more than 5 years remain unchanged. Retention in methadone treatment is generally regarded as a positive goal in drug treatment. A recent report from the European

Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) showed that no country of the 20 surveyed, including Ireland, imposes a limit on the amount of time a person can be on methadone.

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