



5th March 2019

Deputy Mick Wallace, TD
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

Re PQ: 7817/19

To ask the Minister for Health the services and funding provided by the HSE for persons that suffer from addiction to gambling; and the amount of funding allocated to such services in each of the years 2015 to 2017

Dear Deputy Wallace,

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:

Although the HSE Addiction Services has been traditionally funded to treat problematic Drug and Alcohol use some cases of problematic gambling have been provided with treatment. Interventions provided to those presenting with gambling addiction include one to one counselling, financial advice and onward referral to other voluntary groups including Gamblers Anonymous.

The apportionment of funding dedicated solely to gambling addiction cannot be extracted from overall funding; however for the Deputy's information, the HSE expenditure for Addiction Services in 2015 was €113.587; in 2016 €116.216; and in 2017 €120.013m. In addition, other areas of the HSE provide services to clients with addiction problems – these include Health Promotion, Mental Health (with the exception of the North West area which is included in the above figure), Acute Hospital Services and Emergency Departments, and Primary Care.

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

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Doyle
National Planning Specialist

