



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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Greystones
Co. Wicklow

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12th February 2019

Deputy John Brady,
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ ref 4551/19 - To ask the Minister for Health the reporting mechanisms to monitor the successes and shortcomings being used with regard to the telecounselling service being piloted in south County Wicklow; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Brady,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Representation, which you submitted for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The HSE has launched a pilot telecounselling project in South County Wicklow in collaboration with HSE-funded partner provider Turn2Me.org. The service is being delivered through GP's who have the opportunity to refer their patients with mild to moderate mental health difficulties to an online counselling service. This pilot is being undertaken as part of a wider 'Developing Digital Mental Health Supports in Ireland' project whose governance is being managed through the Programme Management Office of the HSE Mental Health. Within this structure, the successes and shortcomings of this and other workstreams are being continually monitored via project Working Group and Steering Group oversight mechanisms.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

**Martina Behan,
General Manager
Community Healthcare East**