



18<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Deputy John Curran, TD  
Dáil Eireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2.

**PQ: 28993/19**

To ask the Minister for Health if he will report on the development of an overdose prevention strategy.

Dear Deputy Curran,

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:

An Overdose Prevention Strategy was prepared in 2012, which:

- considered National Drug-Related Deaths Index reports;
- set targets for reduction of drug deaths;
- listed possible components of an overdose prevention strategy; and
- made recommendations on how different elements of the strategy could be operationalised.

The HSE National Social Inclusion office is developing a report on the implementation of the recommendations from the 2012 strategy, all of which have been actioned. This process will identify a road map for future overdose prevention actions, the emphasis of which may be broader than opioid overdose (the latest National Drug-Related Death Index has shown prescription medications heavily involved in poisoning deaths). A number of events are currently being planned for International Overdose prevention day in 31<sup>st</sup> August.

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

