



01/05/2019

**Deputy Micheál Martin,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.**

**PQ 12366/19**

To ask the Minister for Health the way in which victims of terrorism that live here could receive specific supports in particular counselling from within the health service; if they receive support in accessing health services; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

-Micheál Martin

Dear Deputy Martin,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for response.

There is no specific programme available to those who are victims of terrorism; however there is a range of services made available by the HSE that may be useful to victims of terrorism.

The HSE's Mental Health services are available in each area and include provision of talking therapies. Access to the service is on referral from a GP. Community Mental Health Teams assess a person's needs and responds as clinically indicated.

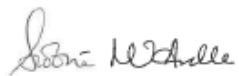
Counselling in Primary Care services are available across all CHO areas for all adults with a current medical card on referral by their GP. On receipt of referral a person's needs are assessed and if it is identified that their needs are too complex to be addressed by the Counselling in Primary Care service, recommendations regarding other more appropriate services are made.

The HSE also provide funding to Spirasi, a humanitarian, intercultural, non-governmental organisation that works with asylum seekers, refugees and other disadvantaged migrant groups, with special concern for survivors of torture. In partnership with others, Spirasi enables access to specialist services to promote the well-being of the person, and encourages self-reliance and integration into Ireland

Care is provided through a holistic/multidisciplinary therapeutic care and rehabilitation service. The specialist care offered by Spirasi aims to complement existing statutory services in order to contribute to an improvement in survivors' quality of life and integration into Irish society. Spirasi therefore works closely with statutory providers. The HSE supports Spirasi in the rehabilitation and support of survivors of torture.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



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Siobhán McArdle,  
Head of Operations Primary Care,  
Community Operations