



Office of A.N.D. Older People and Palliative Care - Strategy  
Services for Older People  
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12<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Deputy Denis Naughten,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Naughten,

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

**PQ Ref: 48575/19**

**To ask the Minister for Health the steps he is taking to ensure that each person diagnosed with dementia has access to a dementia advisor; the counties which do not have a dementia advisor to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

The Dementia Advisor service is a community-based early intervention service primarily for people living with dementia and for their families. The role of the Dementia Adviser (DA) is to provide a locally based, individualised, information, signposting, and emotional support service to people who are concerned about their cognitive health and/or have a diagnosis of dementia and for their families and friends, at all stages of their journey, from diagnosis through to end-of-life.

The HSE currently funds the Alzheimer Society of Ireland's Dementia Adviser Service (DAS). There are currently 8 DA posts funded through a Service level agreement with the HSE.


In Budget 2020, the Minister for Health has approved funding for 10 additional advisers, which will result in there being 18 Dementia advisers with plans to further develop the service over the coming years.

The National Dementia Office (NDO) and the Alzheimer's Society (ASI) will utilise the recommendations from the external evaluation of the Dementia Advisers role to inform new service development. Work has commenced on mapping out where the new posts will be allocated, linked to the current estimated populations of people with dementia and service need. The dementia adviser service will integrate with existing and developing services including memory technology resource rooms, memory assessment and primary care services providing a seamless pathway of care

The table below shows the number of dementia advisers and the counties and areas which they cover.

| Number of Dementia Advisers | Areas covered                                                  |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1                           | Galway                                                         |
| 1                           | South Dublin                                                   |
| 1                           | South Dublin and North Wicklow                                 |
| 1                           | North Dublin                                                   |
| 1                           | Cork City, South Cork, West Cork and South Kerry               |
| 1                           | North Cork, Co Limerick, South Clare, East Kerry and Tipperary |
| 1                           | Cavan Monaghan and Louth                                       |
| 1                           | Mayo                                                           |
| Total: 8                    |                                                                |

Yours sincerely,




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**MICHAEL FITZGERALD**  
**A.N.D. Older People and**  
**Palliative Care - Strategy**