



National Director, Community Operations
Dr. Steevens Hospital, Dublin 8, DO8 W2A8
Tel: 01 6352596 Email: communityoperations@hse.ie

Stúirthóir Náisiúnta, Oibríochtaí Pobail
Ospidéal Dr. Steevens' Baile Atha Cliath 8, DO8 W2A8
T 01 6352596 R: communityoperations@hse.ie

15th November 2019

Deputy John Lahart,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 41394/19 - To ask the Minister for Health the amount spent on out of country placements (details supplied) for deaf persons in each of the years 2014 to 2018 and to date in 2019, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Details Supplied: I was at a Deaf Mental Health Conference in Salford recently (with some other people from Ireland) and was made aware that there is an least one Deaf person from Ireland in a very expensive (£700 per day) Deaf service in England. However it seems that the HSE is making no plans for his return to Ireland, though he is becoming ready to do so. I am already aware of Deaf people in Derry who are also ready to return if there was proper provision.

-John Lahart

Dear Deputy Lahart,

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.

The HSE is aware of a number of vulnerable Deaf adults receiving services in out of state facilities at a current annual cost of approximately €380,000. The costs will vary from year to year due to fluctuations in the euro/sterling exchange rate.

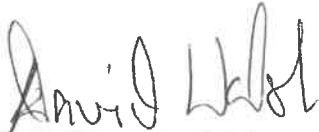
In 2015 the Social Care Division, Disability Services commissioned a small multi-stakeholder working group to examine the residential needs of vulnerable Deaf adults, in cooperation with other Directorates as required. The Group recommended a number of developments required to progress the development of appropriate residential support services for vulnerable Deaf adults, which were dependent on the allocation of resources. A proposal for additional funding of €1.5 million was submitted as part of the 2018 and 2019 Estimates to the Department of Health to progress the development of residential supports for vulnerable deaf people.

This proposal continues to seek an allocation and at present there is a requirement to continue to work within current available resources. Where services are identified within a Community Healthcare Organisation Area, (CHO) the allocation of resources is dependent on the decisions made within the CHO in considering all competing demands.

A pilot 'proof of concept' project was considered in 2018 and 2019 regarding the repatriation of two clients from an out of state service to return to services within the Dublin area. However, this will not now come to fruition as the persons involved have either expressed a preference to remain in their current service or due to presentation of disability are currently not suitable to transition to a different care model.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Walsh". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

David Walsh,
National Director,
Community Operations