



HSE Tobacco Free Ireland Programme
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Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
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15th December 2020

Ref: PQ 40446/20

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to your above referenced Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health.

HSE response to 40446/20: To ask the Minister for Health the details of all the campuses, public sector buildings and offices that have adopted the tobacco free campus policy; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

The HSE Tobacco Free Ireland (TFI) Programme systematically drives policy priorities in the area of tobacco control within the HSE including the ongoing implementation of Tobacco Free Healthcare Services.

If resources allow, we endeavor to support the implementation of tobacco free environments in organisations external to the HSE, however, we do not have data on the implementation of tobacco free environments across other public sector buildings.

The HSE Tobacco Free Ireland Programme deems the [HSE Tobacco Free Campus Policy \(2012\)](#) to be implemented if;

- The service has a written TFC Policy document;
- Governance of the implementation of the TFC policy lies with a senior manager/committee;
- A system is in place to ensure that the policy is communicated to staff, patients/ service users and visitors on a regular and on-going basis;
- All staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities in implementing the policy;
- Staff are supported to quit or comply with the policy during work time through behavioural support and/or stop smoking medications (nicotine replacement therapy/varenicline);

- There is no designated indoor or outdoor smoking area for staff, patients or visitors. There are no exceptions made for staff or visitors. If exceptional circumstances arise, in the case of patients or service users, management of same must be documented in the Individual care plan. ***Having an outdoor smoking area with freely available access does not constitute implementation of the policy;***
- Staff have been trained in Brief intervention for Smoking Cessation/ Making Every Contact Count and/or intensive smoking cessation;
- Stop smoking medication and/or behavioural supports are being offered to patients/service users and documented in individual care plans;
- There is a plan in place to reduce, minimise and eliminate tobacco & e-cigarette use from the site.

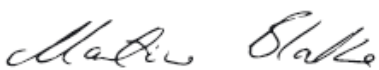
During 2019, the HSE TFI Programme issued a survey to all Social Care (older persons and disability) and Mental Health services to assess the level of policy implementation nationally. Primary care and Acute Hospital services have fully implemented the policy previously.

Survey results found that the policy was implemented in;

- 46% of Mental Health Approved Units (based on survey uptake rate of 68% of sites)
- 10% of Mental Health Residential Services (based on survey uptake rate of 15% of sites)
- 7% of Disability Residential Services (based on survey uptake rate of 10% of sites)
- 81% of Older Persons Residential Services (based on survey uptake rate of 53% of sites)

The HSE Tobacco Free Ireland Programme continues to promote and improve the ongoing implementation of the Tobacco Free Campus Policy across all healthcare sites and services. This is achieved through an incentivised quality improvement bursary scheme, implementation of the Global Network for Tobacco Free Healthcare Services standards, investment in communication of the policy and ongoing training of health service staff.

Yours Sincerely,



Martina Blake

National Lead, HSE Tobacco Free Ireland Programme