



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath20.
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23rd July 2020,
Deputy Alan Kelly,
Dail Eireann
Dublin 2.

PQ Number: 14202/20

To ask the Minister for Health the funding that has been made available to mental health services for additional costs incurred to date due to the Covid-19 crisis; the additional funding being made available for mental health services to return to providing services; the proportion of the overall additional HSE spend on Covid-19 for mental health; his views on whether mental health services will achieve a balanced budget in 2020 by absorbing the additional costs associated with Covid-19; the reason St. James's Hospital has not yet implemented the national clinical programme for self-harm in view of the fact that the homeless are a particularly vulnerable group; and if the HSE will reinstate the funding which was withdrawn at the end of 2019 for the multidisciplinary mental health team for the homeless in south central areas of Dublin in view of the expected post-Covid-19 mental health wave.

Dear Deputy Kelly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

- **To ask the Minister for Health the funding that has been made available to mental health services for additional costs incurred to date due to the Covid-19 crisis;**

As at the end of May 2020, Mental Health have incurred €6.98m of additional Covid related expenditure which was not anticipated when agreeing the National Service Plan 2020. Mental Health have not yet received any funding to offset against this expenditure however we are operating on the assumption that this Covid expenditure will be funded before year end.

- **the additional funding being made available for mental health services to return to providing services; the proportion of the overall additional HSE spend on Covid-19 for mental health;**

Mental Health are currently preparing business continuity plans in conjunction with each of the 9 CHO's. This will give us an understanding of the additional costs associated with returning to previous activity levels and any future funding will not be agreed until these business continuity plans are finalised. In relation to the proportion of the overall additional HSE spend on Covid-19 for mental health – the overall HSE spend includes costs which relate to all care groups including Mental Health (ie PPE, testing costs, assessment hubs etc). The €6.98m referenced above is Mental Health expenditure incurred directly by CHO's, however there have been significant costs incurred centrally on behalf of Mental Health – this breakdown is currently not available hence this comparison cannot be calculated currently.



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- **his views on whether mental health services will achieve a balanced budget in 2020 by absorbing the additional costs associated with Covid-19;**

Mental Health are projecting a breakeven position at year end excluding additional Covid expenditure. Mental Health are operating on the assumption that any unfunded Covid expenditure will be funded before year end to allow Mental Health to return a breakeven financial position at year end.

- **the reason St. James's Hospital has not yet implemented the national clinical programme for self-harm in view of the fact that the homeless are a particularly vulnerable group;**

Funding has been allocated to CHO7 under PfG Developments to implement the Self Harm programme. I can advise that discussions are at an advanced stage with a view to entering into a Service Arrangement that will ensure robust Clinical Governance for the clinical programme under the auspices of the HSE Mental Health services and St. James's Hospital. It is hoped to finalise that agreement in the coming weeks, at which stage, the recruitment of those posts can be finalised.

- **and if the HSE will reinstate the funding which was withdrawn at the end of 2019 for the multidisciplinary mental health team for the homeless in south central areas of Dublin in view of the expected post-Covid-19 mental health wave**

There was no reduction in the staffing or non pay for the multidisciplinary mental health team for the homeless. Any additional funding was allocated to the CHO 7 Mental Health budget to break even.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours Sincerely

Jim Ryan
Assistant National Director
Head of Operations
Mental Health



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