



Dearadh agus Nuálaíocht Chliniciúil; Oifig an Príohoifigeach Cliniciúil  
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12<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Deputy Louise O'Reilly, TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**RE: PQ 18024/20**

**To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of diabetes related illnesses to the health service each year; the amount the health service spends on diabetes prevention and management; and if he will make a statement on the matter**

Dear Deputy O'Reilly

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Clinical Programme for Diabetes on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

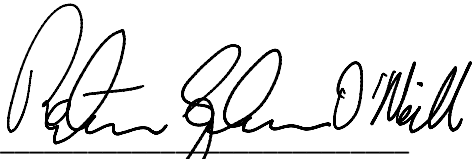
Research recently completed by the School of Public Health and the Department of Statistics in University College Cork investigated health service utilisation and related costs attributable to diabetes and diabetes related complications in Ireland. Health service use in the previous 12 months includes the number of general practitioner visits, outpatient department visits, hospital admissions, and accident and emergency department attendances. Results of this research showed the incremental health service use associated with diabetes was estimated to cost €88,894,421 per annum. Hospital admissions accounted for most of this spending, costing an estimated €60,002,517. By varying the unit cost estimates by  $\pm 20\%$ , the cost of the incremental health service use associated with diabetes fluctuated from €71,115,537 to €106,673,305. These findings demonstrate that diabetes is associated with substantial additional health service use and costs, with hospital admissions accounting for more than two-thirds of the cost burden (O'Neill, McHugh, Tracey, Fitzgerald & Kearney, 2018).

The amount that the health service spends on diabetes prevention is unknown. However, the National Clinical Programme (NCP) for Diabetes recognises the importance of developing an approach to diabetes prevention nationally. In 2019, an application to the Sláintecare Integration Fund to progress development of a National Diabetes Prevention Programme was successful. This project commenced in January 2020 but was paused during the COVID-19 pandemic. The NCP for Diabetes is preparing to recommence this project in the coming months and anticipates finalising the

content of a National Diabetes Prevention Programme and piloting it in Spring 2021. The project will be led by Ms Margaret Humphreys, National lead for Self-Management Education.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



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**Patricia Gilsenan O'Neill**  
**General Manager**

*Ref: O'Neill, K. N., McHugh, S. M., Tracey, M. L., Fitzgerald, A. P., & Kearney, P. M. (2018). Health service utilization and related costs attributable to diabetes. Diabetic Medicine, 35(12), 1727-1734.*