



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte  
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath20.  
T 01 6207304 R: jim.ryan1@hse.ie

Head of Operations, Mental Health Service  
St Loman's Hospital, Palmerstown Dublin 20  
Tel: 01-6207304 Email: [jim.ryan1@hse.ie](mailto:jim.ryan1@hse.ie)

14<sup>th</sup> August 2020,

Deputy Mark Ward,  
Dail Eireann  
Dublin 2.

PQ Number: 18912/20

**To ask the Minister for Health if there is funding available for voluntary organisations that are providing a service for persons with both subsistence addiction and mental health issues; if so, the Department responsible for same; the process involved in submitting an application; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear DeputyWard,

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.

The needs of people with drug and alcohol problems are addressed through the ongoing implementation of our National Drug and Alcohol Strategy: Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery. A health led approach to the problems of Drug and Alcohol use in Ireland 2017 – 2025. Services are now reopening in a planned and appropriate manner. The aim is to optimise service user care while minimising the risks to the healthcare staff, the wider healthcare service and the public. The planning and implementation of resumption is informed by relevant guidance and resources available on the HPSC website and through a number of webinars that have been provided to staff. The HSE is also undertaking an evaluation of the response provided during the crisis and any additional needs identified during this evaluation will be progressed through the Estimates process.

In terms of community and voluntary services in receipt of funding through the HSE, each CHO has been invited to identify section 39 agencies that may be experiencing financial difficulties. The HSE is working through a process of continuation of services in a safe manner in line with public health guidelines. This is a process that is worked through individually with each service through the Service Level Agreement.

For the Deputy's information, the Department of Rural and Community Development is funding the COVID-19 Stability Fund for Community and Voluntary, Charity and Social Enterprises for services that are in need of funding to help their organisation through COVID-19. €35m has been made available through the Dormant Accounts Fund. See <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/b1a7b9-covid-19-community-voluntary-charity-and-social-enterprise/>



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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sinead Reynolds'.

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Dr Sinead Reynolds  
General Manager Mental Health Services