



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
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24th August 2020,

Deputy Pat Buckley,
Dail Eireann
Dublin 2.

PQ Number: 20664/20

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the details of the roll out of additional telemental health services in 2020; and his plans for 2021.

Dear Deputy Buckley,

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.

Prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, as part of a wider programme of work which had been on-going for over a year, a number of digital mental health initiatives were being developed including:

- The redevelopment of the YourMentalHealth.ie website with an integrated support and service finder tool
- The establishment of the single contact YourMentalHealth Information Line that allows callers to access information and signposting to all State-funded mental health supports and services
- The establishment of the national text-based active listening service 50808 (launched in June 2020), staffed by trained volunteers with clinical oversight 24/7
- The piloting of internet-based cognitive behavioural therapy programmes
- The piloting of counselling online initiatives in collaboration with HSE-funded partners (Turn2Me.org)
- The piloting of remote psychiatric consultations among a selection across intellectual disability, CAMHS, adult and addiction services.

In response to the pandemic, significant advances have been made in developing the capacity of services to conduct consultations remotely via videolink with the roll out of the Attend Anywhere and Blue Eye Direct video consultation solutions. Further, HSE funded partner MyMind secured funding through the Sláintecare Integration Fund to provide 5,000 online counselling sessions to those affected by the pandemic across the population.

The website, phonenumber and 50808 service have all launched, and the counselling online pilot is currently being reviewed with final report to be completed in due course. The internet CBT pilot is ongoing and due for review in September. Plans for 2021 are subject to funding availability and final decisions have yet to be made.



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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'.

Dr Sinead Reynolds
General Manager Mental Health Services