



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
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

8th July 2020,

**Deputy Mark Ward,
Dail Eireann
Dublin 2.**

Re: PQ Number 12813/20

To ask the Minister for Health if he has requested the HSE to examine the finances of an organisation (details supplied); if so, the reason for the examination; when the examination will be concluded; if the results will be made public; and if he will make a statement on the matter. Details Supplied: Pieta House

Dear Deputy Ward,

The HSE has been requested to respond to you with regard to your question above.

The HSE completed a review of Pieta House on issues pertaining to challenges that arose during COVID 19 in relation to fundraising and the potential effect on service provision and the request to provide additional funding to the organisation. On this matter, there are some points to highlight;

- Pieta House is an independent Section 39 organisation with a Board of Directors who has responsibility to adhere to compliance with the law and support best practice in the governance, management and administration as set out by the Charities Regulator, including financial matters.
- The HSE provides approximately 20% of Pieta House's overall funding to provide specific projects/services via a Service Level Agreement (SLA). The process of negotiating and agreeing SLAs with any organisation, includes an ongoing and regular assessment of service activity levels against agreed schedules, and developing an understanding of associated costs, be they anticipated, or unanticipated. Other elements considered during this process include quality and safety, complaints, insurance, spending, performance monitoring, staffing and change control.



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- Given the financial challenges of Section 39 organisations due to Covid-19, the HSE has adopted a structured approach, including developing a modus operandi, providing a methodology for a pro forma approach for analysis and recommendations to support decision making in respect of Section 39 organisations that have made submissions to the HSE for both financial and non-financial supports during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The HSE engaged with Pieta House in this process to ensure, where appropriate, continuity of essential services as outlined in the current SLA for 2020. The HSE also engaged and communicated with the Mental Health Division in the Department of Health on the process.
- The provision of additional resources to Pieta House is linked to Action 4 of the Government's National Action Plan which is focused on caring for people who are 'at risk' or vulnerable and outlines the need to roll out and expand additional supports related to Covid-19. This additional funding is specifically for the provision of counselling hours for clients deemed to be of high risk. Pieta House has reassured the HSE that any funding provided will be used for the purposes intended.
- It is important to note that additional payments to Pieta House are not due to start until the Government Scheme ends. The requirement for this additional funding will be reviewed on a monthly basis by the HSE. The hours that the HSE will be funding (once the payment commences) are a subset of the level of hours previously provided by Pieta House but funded by voluntary donations, the availability of which has substantially reduced due to a fall in the fundraising capacity of the organisation.

The HSE recognises that since the above was agreed with Pieta House, additional fundraising has been achieved by the organisation. They have also undertaken a review of their services to ensure the financial stability of the overall organisation and provide a full report to the HSE in July 2020.



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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