



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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17TH June 2020,

Deputy James Browne
Dail Eireann
Dublin 2.

PQ Number: 7315/20

To ask the Minister for Health his plans to ensure that mental health services and voluntary NGOs receive sufficient funding to ensure that their services can continue during the pandemic; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Browne,

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.

HSE MH Finance is engaging with service colleagues around understanding the costs associated with Covid in mental health services. In relation to our NGO partners the HSE's National Mental Health Service has service agreements with approximately 38 NGO partners. Since March 2020 a weekly telecall has been completed with all MH NGO partners as part of a continuous support process.

To support our efforts at COVID-19 cost tracking and reporting, a finance reporting working group has been established with membership across the National Finance Division, HBS Finance, CHO Finance and Acute Hospital Group Finance. Clinical and operational information that is already being gathered, or is planned to be gathered as part of the coordinated management of the HSE response, forms a core element of COVID-19 financial reporting. The HSE are currently engaging with the DOH & DPER to ensure that these costs are the funded so that services can continue during the pandemic.

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

Yours sincerely,

Dr Sinead Reynolds
General Manager Mental Health Services