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To ask the Minister for Health the polices, plans and programmes designed to integrate suicide prevention programmes through the National Physical Activity Plan; the suicide prevention training and well-being programmes delivered; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy,

The HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP) has been requested to respond to your question above.

Under action 1.1.5 of Connecting for Life, Ireland's National Strategy to Reduce Suicide, the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS) and Department of Health (through Healthy Ireland) have committed to promoting physical activity as a protective factor for mental health through the National Physical Activity Plan. Under action 3.1.1 of the strategy, DTTAS has also committed to integrating suicide prevention into relevant sports policies and programmes for those who are vulnerable and at risk of suicide within the sporting community.

In the draft Connecting for Life Implementation Plan for 2020-2022, initiatives identified that fall under these actions include: delivering suicide prevention training and wellbeing programmes such as Sport Ireland's "Find Your Fit" programme to National governing bodies of sport and Local Sports Partnerships, and; exploring the integration of the planned national database of sports facilities and leisure facilities into suicide prevention programmes.

The HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention's training (such as safeTALK) is also promoted through the Sport for Health Alliance and embedded within the GAA's Healthy Clubs Initiative.

I trust this information is useful for you. Please do revert should you require anything further - we are happy to discuss with you at your convenience the role and function of NOSP and the implementation of our national suicide prevention strategy, Connecting for Life.

Yours sincerely,



Mr John Meehan

HSE Assistant National Director, Mental Health Strategy and Planning
Head of National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP)