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PQ Ref 31591/20

To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost to provide ASIST suicide awareness training to 12,000 sports clubs on the basis of 10, 20, 30 and 40 persons per club; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ Ref 31592/20

To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost to provide SafeTalk suicide prevention training to 12,000 sports clubs on the basis of 10, 20, 30 and 40 persons per club; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ Ref 31593/20

To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost to provide SafeTalk suicide prevention training to 430,000 volunteers, coaches and extended staff in sports organisations; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ Ref 31594/20

To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost to provide ASIST suicide training to 430,000 volunteers, coaches and extended staff in sports organisations; 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 four questions above.

While this office has not conducted a specific cost analysis for provision of safeTALK and ASIST programmes to the numbers and persons in your questions, the following outlines relevant information.

SafeTALK and ASIST costs

A hybrid model is used by the NOSP to support the delivery of suicide prevention training programmes. Internal trainers working across the HSE and voluntary sector deliver training as part of their substantive posts. External trainers are sourced when there are no internal trainers available and their fees are set (based on experience) as follows;

Programme	Duration (Days)	Fee per programme (€)		
		Trainee Trainer	Trainer	Master Trainer
ASIST	2	600	800	1,000
ASIST Tune Up I	0.5	200	250	300
ASIST Tune Up II	1	300	400	450
safeTALK	0.5	200	250	300

Venue and catering costs may also apply, dependant on the type of venue and duration of programme. For the purpose budgeting, per programme, we estimate €200 for venues and €150 for catering.

The maximum number of participants in a safeTALK programme is 30. The maximum number of participants in an ASIST programme is 24.

Training programmes (including safeTALK and ASIST) are also delivered in partnership with key agencies. For example;

- The NOSP has worked with the **Garda College** in Templemore to embed suicide prevention training into the B.A. in Applied Policing. All Garda recruits are trained in safeTALK and ASIST. Training was paused in March 2020 in light of Covid-19, but recommenced in October 2020. Exploratory talks are underway with the 'Leadership and Management Development/International Training' unit to identify suitable training programme for frontline policing during Covid-19.
- In order to build internal trainer capacity, 12 members of the **Defence Forces** attended a safeTALK 'Train the Trainer' event in November 2019. All new trainers were supported by a consultant trainer to build their skill and competence in delivery since December 2019.
- SafeTALK training is an integral component of the **GAA's Healthy Club** project. The Healthy Club project aims to help GAA clubs explore how they support the holistic health of their members and the communities they serve. Club volunteers complete training programmes in their community through their local HSE Resource Officer for Suicide Prevention.

Lastly, you might also like to note that investment from the NOSP in training programmes (including safeTALK and ASIST) is an ongoing priority. Education and training are key components of work to achieve the vision of Connecting for Life, Ireland's National Strategy to Reduce Suicide.

In 2019 over 15,000 people attended suicide and self-harm training programmes nationally – including over 9,400 completing safeTALK and over 3,500 completing ASIST.

While face-to-face training is currently paused due to public health measures, the NOSP has made [Livingworks Start](#) (online suicide prevention training programme) available. To date in 2020 over 1,900 people have enrolled to complete this programme in the absence of face-to-face training during the pandemic.

The NOSP supports the delivery of a suite of evidence-informed training programmes in suicide prevention, intervention and postvention in line with Connecting for Life, and our accompanying [National Education and Training Plan, 2019-2020](#).

I trust this information is useful for you. Please do revert should you require anything further.

Yours sincerely,



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