



Oifig an Príomhoifigeach, Eagraíocht  
Cúram Sláinte Pobail, Lár Tíre, An Lú,  
An Mhí Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse  
Sláinte, Oifig Cheantair, Bóthar  
Ardáin, An Tulach Mhór, Co. Uíbh  
Fhailí.

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22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2021

Ms Sorca Clarke T.D.,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**Re: Parliamentary Question - 19437/21**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of paid providers of safe talk suicide awareness courses in counties Longford and Westmeath. - Sorca Clarke**

Dear Deputy Clarke,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you recently submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and outline response as follows.

Within the context of Action 2.3.2 of the *Connecting for Life Midlands Louth Meath Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2018-2020* (p.60) all suicide prevention programmes, including SafeTALK and ASIST are provided free of charge upon request by the Resource Office for Suicide Prevention to professionals and volunteers across community-based organisations, particularly those who come into regular contact with people who are vulnerable to suicide. Having a sufficient number of suitably qualified trainers is critical in ensuring the delivery of an effective and efficient suicide prevention training service that is capable of meeting the needs of the community in a timely way. Via the National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP) and the Resource Office for Suicide Prevention all SafeTALK and ASIST trainers go through a selection process. These then undertake a programme specific T4T and are accredited to deliver the relevant programme by LivingWorks. Each trainer is subject to ongoing upskilling and learning as part of the quality assurance process which is supervised by NOSP.

The management and co-ordination of all suicide prevention training programme delivery is managed by the Resource Office for Suicide Prevention in each area. This means that suicide prevention trainers deliver programmes at the request of the Resource Office for Suicide Prevention in each area. Suicide prevention trainers are either 'paid trainers' or 'unpaid trainers'. Paid trainers are private contractors. These are paid to deliver suicide prevention programmes on a sessional basis when the need arises at the request of the Resource Office for Suicide Prevention. These are paid in accordance with rates agreed at national level with NOSP. Unpaid trainers, with the agreement of their organisations and line management, deliver suicide prevention at the request of the Resource Office for Suicide Prevention when the need arises on a sessional basis. These are not paid for the delivery of suicide prevention training. Table 1 illustrates the numbers of paid and unpaid SafeTALK trainers who delivered SafeTALK in Longford/Westmeath from 2018-2021.

Year	Paid Trainers	Unpaid Trainers
2018	5	2
2019	2	2
2020*	2	1
2021*	0	0

**Table 1: Paid/ Unpaid SafeTALK Trainers who delivered SafeTALK in Longford/Westmeath (2018-2021)**

\*Due to the Covid 19 restrictions, from March 2020 delivery of all face to face suicide prevention programmes including SafeTALK and ASIST were paused and have not, as yet, resumed.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,



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Des O'Flynn  
Chief Officer  
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation