

June 30<sup>th</sup> 2021,  
Deputy Holly Cairns  
Dail Eireann,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ Number: 22021/21**

**PQ Question:** To ask the Minister for Health if he will restore funding to the community based non-profit counselling services to 2011 levels with adjustments for inflation; and if he will make a statement on the matter.  
-Holly Cairns

**Further clarification received:** It refers to both the National Counselling Service (NCS) or Counselling in Primary Care (CIPC) and any HSE funding provided to them. The services have advised us of the reduction in funding.

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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.

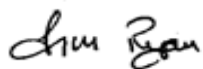
Both the National Counselling Service, and Counselling in Primary Care are statutory services provided by the HSE. There have been no cuts to these services since 2011, from Mental Health Operations nationally.

It may be that your question relates to a different, more specific service. For example, a service that has a local funding arrangement with one of the nine CHOs across the country, or a service delivered by an NGO or community group. 'Community based non-profit counselling services' are not one homogeneous service. They comprise a very wide range of (mainly) Section 39 agencies that are independent of the HSE and have Service Level Agreements with different particular funders e.g., with Mental Health (nationally), the HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention, Mental Health Services in 9 CHO's across the country, Social Inclusion, Primary Care, Disability Services, Services for Older People, and so on.

Therefore, if you do have a particular service in mind, you would be very welcome to specify this in another question and direct it to the particular funder or funding office.

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

Yours sincerely,



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Jim Ryan  
Assistant National Director



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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