



10<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Deputy Sorca Clarke, TD  
Dáil Eireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2.

**Re PQ: 9862/21**

To ask the Minister for Health the additional resources his Department will make available to effectively tackle the substantial increase in drug misuse by county in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Clarke,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to your above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position:

The HSE have been notified of an additional €4.2 million made available from the Minister for Health to maintain addiction services. Addiction services had a substantial increase in clients during 2020 with an additional 863 clients commenced onto Opioid Substitution Treatment in 2020. For the Deputy's information, 2 ½ times as much Naloxone was provided nationally in 2020 compared to 2019 (a prescription medication used to reverse the effects of opioid drugs like heroin, morphine and methadone if someone overdoses).

The €4.2 million additional funding will enhance the provision of Naloxone nationally, and will be allocated to addiction services nationally to allow services to continue to provide support to clients including the additional new clients. The allocation of the funding to the Naloxone Programme and to individual CHOs is in progress and further details are not available at this time.

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

Yours sincerely,

---

Joseph Doyle  
National Lead, Social Inclusion

