



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath20.

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18th March 2021

Deputy Mark Ward
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 12197/21

To ask the Minister for Health if he has considered providing specialist mental health supports for the blind and vision impaired; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Mark Ward

Dear Deputy Ward,

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.

The HSE does not offer a dedicated specialist mental health support services for the blind or vision impaired, however all HSE mental health services are available to all persons, including the blind and vision impaired.

If additional supports are required in accessing mental health services, these would be highlighted by the referring agent at the point of referral.

HSE Disability Services fund **National Council for the Blind of Ireland (NCBI)**, under Section 39 of the Health Act to provide a range of centre, domiciliary and community based services to people who are blind or vision impaired. This funding is governed by a number of Service Arrangements in all 9 CHO Areas, which identify service delivery provided by the agency in return for the money being provided to them. The Service Arrangements are reviewed on an annual basis

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

Yours sincerely,

Thomas O'Brien



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General Manager Mental Health Services

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