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PQ Ref 12710/21

To ask the Minister for Health if he will examine the roll-out of age appropriate Safe Talk training for pupils in secondary schools.

Dear Deputy,

The HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP) has been requested to respond to your question above.

safeTALK training is not delivered to people under the age of 18 as it would go against best practice and guidelines as detailed in [Well-being in Post Primary Schools: Guidelines for Mental Health Promotion and Suicide Prevention](#) (Department of Health, 2013).

In advance of the introduction to safeTALK in Ireland, a consultation process was completed with key stakeholders including the safeTALK Coordinators, Department of Children and Youth Affairs and Department of Education and Skills. It was agreed that safeTALK would not be delivered to participants under the age of 18 years.

Good practice highlighted in [Suicide Prevention in the Community – A Practical Guide](#) (HSE, 2011) indicated to “Avoid student-focused suicide awareness or education programmes – it is not advisable to use programmes that focus on raising awareness about suicide with students. Short suicide prevention programmes with no connection to support services should also be avoided”.

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)

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