

25<sup>th</sup> March 2021  
Deputy Mark Ward  
Dail Eireann,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ Number: 13020/21**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of organisations that have received mental health first aid training; the number which were sports organisations; the number of persons per organisation in tabular form; 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.

Mental Health First Aid Ireland and the HSE have an agreement to deliver MHFA training to target voluntary, charity, public sector groups such as homeless services, youth organisations, emergency personnel and sporting organisations. Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is the help given to someone experiencing a mental health problem or crisis until appropriate help is received or until the crisis resolves. The Standard and Youth Mental Health First Aid Ireland courses teach people how to provide MHFA. Participants will learn the signs and symptoms of mental health problems and what sort of help has been shown by research to be effective. They learn a framework for communication, how to offer and provide initial help, and how to guide an adult or young person towards appropriate treatments and other supportive help.

In 2020, MHFA Ireland delivered both the Standard MHFA course and the Youth MHFA course to a diverse range of different organisations and groups including Sport Ireland and Limerick Sports Partnership. During this ongoing piece of work MHFA has delivered training to some staff and members of approximately 28 separate sporting organisations. Examples of organisations such as Special Olympics Ireland, The Camogie Association, GAA, FAI, Athletics Ireland, Triathlon Ireland, Leinster Rugby, Hockey Ireland, Tennis Ireland, Cricket Ireland, Irish Wheel Chair Association, Badminton Ireland and some various local sports partnerships. The table below outlines the list of organisations and groups who received MHFA training in 2020.

Organisations	Number trained
ABC Ballyfermot	24
Aiseiri	53
Connect Mental Health - Donegal	15
Defence Forces	94



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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FIT Fastrack into Technology	13
Limerick Sports Partnership	74
MH Ireland Enniscorthy	17
Offaly Local Development	15
Paul Partnership	14
Peter McVerry Trust	45
Pobal - Leader Programme (Social Inclusion Theme)	27

Organisations	Number trained
Public-Mixed	140
Sport Ireland	60
St Johns Ambulance	29
Traveller Community	13
USI	21
Womens Refuge (Amber Refuge)	29
Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus Ireland	22
Gaelic Players Association	19
Youth MHFA (Mixed Groups)	116
Youth MHFA Post Primary Teachers	16
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>856</b>

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

Yours sincerely,

Thomas O'Brien  
General Manager Mental Health Services