



Mark Ward TD

Dáil Éireann

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

[mark.ward@oireachtas.ie](mailto:mark.ward@oireachtas.ie)

25<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**PQ Ref 13021/21**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of GAA clubs that have received safeTALK training through health club initiatives; the number of persons per club, by age; the cost of delivering this training per year and to date in 2021, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy,

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

Since 2013, the NOSP has supported the development of Health and Wellbeing Subcommittees within GAA County Committees, and the GAA Healthy Club Project. NOSP funding was €60k in 2019 and €110k in 2020. 2021 funding of €50k has been agreed, and GAA Healthy Clubs plan an evaluation of their initiatives at the end of 2021.

NOSP funding to GAA Healthy Clubs does not relate solely to the delivery of safeTALK in GAA Clubs, but encompasses contribution to;

- Salary costs for National Health & Wellbeing Coordinator
- The promotion and hosting of safeTALK training programmes throughout GAA communities
- The continued roll out of the Critical Incident Response Protocol throughout the GAA communities
- Promotion/partnering with other HSE Mental Health Campaigns and Healthy Ireland initiatives.

**In 2019;**

GAA Healthy Clubs hosted/delivered;

- 9 county-based safeTALK training sessions (138 attendees)
- 50 club-based safeTALK training sessions (575 attendees).

In addition (outside GAA Healthy Clubs) a further 227 safeTALK participants in wider settings categorised themselves as being from sporting organisations. In these settings, we do not collate information on the type of sporting organisation or club. Age and county of residence breakdowns for these are;

Age	Number	%
18-24	26	11.5%
25-29	22	9.7%
30-34	20	8.8%
35-39	23	10.1%
40-44	39	17.2%
45-49	43	18.9%
50-54	22	9.7%
55-59	7	3.1%
60-64	11	4.8%
65-69	2	.9%
70+	1	.4%
Not given	11	4.8%

County	Number	%
Carlow	4	1.8%
Cavan	7	3.1%
Clare	10	4.4%
Cork	7	3.1%
Donegal	59	26.0%
Dublin	31	13.7%
Leitrim	7	3.1%
Limerick	2	.9%
Longford	12	5.3%
Louth	5	2.2%
Meath	34	15.0%
Monaghan	12	5.3%
Not given	15	6.6%
Offaly	1	.4%
Sligo	1	.4%
Tipperary	6	2.6%
Waterford	10	4.4%
Westmeath	2	.9%
Wexford	2	.9%

Given that face-to-face training programmes paused for much of 2020 and to date in 2021, there is no comparable data to provide you for these years. Last year the NOSP commenced the provision of [LivingWorks Start](#), Suicide Prevention Skills Online, which has been made available to the general public and key stakeholders, such as the GAA.

The NOSP is continuing to work on the development of hybrid models of training, utilising cost-effective, accessible online and remote mediums for our range of suicide prevention, self-harm and bereavement training programmes. We consider this shift, a priority in our work.

I trust this information is useful for you. Please do revert if you require anything more - as we would welcome the opportunity to discuss further or answer any questions you have in this area.

Yours sincerely,



Mr John Meehan

HSE Assistant National Director, Mental Health Strategy and Planning

Head of National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP)

[johnf.meehan@hse.ie](mailto:johnf.meehan@hse.ie)