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**PQ Ref 13022/21**

**To ask the Minister for Health the cost per person to complete ASIST suicide prevention training; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**PQ Ref 13023/21**

**To ask the Minister for Health the cost per person to complete safeTALK training; 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 two questions above.

There is no cost to participants, for attending safeTALK or ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) programmes.

The cost to the HSE, per participant will vary considerably by CHO area. Costs depend on a number of factors, mainly whether:

- In-house trainers are available, or paid contract trainers are required
- Paid venue hire is required, or not
- Admin support is available in-house (to coordinate the training delivery) or outsourcing is required.

Nevertheless, to assist with your enquiry, we estimate that the mean average cost per participant for safeTALK is **€19**, and for ASIST is **€91**.

- NB These figures exclude additional peripheral costs, for example: licensing for both programmes (which is handled nationally and not dependent on participant numbers); printed materials; promotion, and; oversight and evaluation.

Since the delivery of face-to-face programmes (such as safeTALK and ASIST) paused under public health restrictions, in 2020 the NOSP commenced the provision of [LivingWorks Start](#), Suicide Prevention Skills Online. The mean average cost per participant for this programme, is **€18**.

- NB This online programme has less additional peripheral costs associated with it.

Given the significant challenges in delivering face-to-face programmes in the last year, 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

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