



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte  
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.  
T 01 6207304 R: [jim.ryan1@hse.ie](mailto:jim.ryan1@hse.ie)

Head of Operations, Mental Health Service  
St Loman's Hospital, Palmerstown Dublin 20  
Tel: 01-6207304 Email: [jim.ryan1@hse.ie](mailto:jim.ryan1@hse.ie)

April 30<sup>th</sup> 2021,  
Deputy Colm Burke,  
Dail Eireann  
Dublin 2.

**PQ Number: 14097/21**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if clear guidelines have been furnished to health practitioners on referral pathways for transgender young persons and their families to specialised services in line with Objective 13 of the LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy to improve the physical and mental health of transgender young persons; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Colm Burke**

Dear Deputy Burke,

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 Service Development Model for Transgender Children, Adolescents and Adults developed by the HSE Quality Improvement Division sets out a proposed model of care and treatment pathway which seeks to build on the current services in place.

The HSE continues to work closely with TENI to develop & deliver Gender Identity Skills Training (GIST) for HSE Staff, which provides an extensive training package to ensure Irish healthcare workers develop a better understanding of, and confidence in, working with gender variant people. The programme has recently been further developed and expanded the professionals involved in the delivery of training, including the possibility of shared learning groups, post training for support and sustainability. GIST supported and promoted the delivery for trans training across all CHO's. Both new Irish adult and adolescent service leads presented and participated in the 3 days training.

Gender Identity Skills Training (GIST) is noted as recommendation 6, in the Final Report of the Steering Committee on the Development of HSE Transgender Identity Services, February 2020:

“Continue to roll out Gender Identity Skills Training (GIST) nationally to all relevant staff members across the continuum of care, through primary care, secondary care and tertiary care, including Jigsaw and CIPC staff providing services at a local level.”

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

Yours sincerely,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amir Niazi'.

Dr Amir Niazi  
National Clinical Advisor & Group Lead for Mental Health  
Clinical Design and Innovation  
Health Service Executive

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