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25th June 2021

PQs:

- 24045/21** To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of providing Safe Talk to all national governing body sporting organisations; and if he will make a statement on the matter.
- 24046/21** To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost to providing ASIST suicide prevention training to all sporting organisations affiliated to Sport Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter.
- 24050/21** To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost to deliver Safe Talk training to all existing teachers; and if he will make a statement on the matter.
- 24051/21** To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of delivering ASIST training to all existing teachers; and if he will make a statement on the matter.
- 24056/21** To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of delivering Safe Talk training to all gardaí; and if he will make a statement on the matter.
- 24057/21** To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of delivering ASIST training to all gardaí; 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 six questions above.

Our office has not conducted a cost analysis for any of the specific scenarios outlined in your questions. However, to assist with your calculations, you could refer to the approximate costs for safeTALK and ASIST provided in response to two of your Parliamentary Questions (13022/21 & 13023/21) in March:

The cost to the HSE <for safeTALK and ASIST>, 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.

Given your reference to Gardaí, note that in recent years, our office has developed a strong relationship with the Garda Training College in Templemore. As a result, safeTALK and ASIST are now established components within the BA in Applied Policing, for all Garda Trainees.

Furthermore, in support of the implementation of their Human Rights Strategy (2020-2022), An Garda Síochána has committed to working with our office to introduce safeTALK to all members of Garda Personnel.

Lastly, you might also note that under commitments in Connecting for Life (Ireland's National Strategy to Reduce Suicide) the Department of Education and Skills has committed to making safeTALK training available to all secondary school teachers.

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)

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