



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Richard O' Donoghue,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

28th October 2021

PQ Number: 50018/21

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the increase in the number of persons that are seeking mental health support and taking medication for such issues in the knowledge that this medication is highly addictive; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Richard O' Donoghue

Dear Deputy O' Donoghue,

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.

My understanding is that the prescribing of medication is done by specialist mental health services led by a Consultant Psychiatrist. All decisions regarding the prescribing of medication is undertaken by a Consultant Psychiatrist. I do believe that my colleagues in the Primary Care setting only prescribe medication to treat mental health conditions once a consultation has taken place with the service user. I do acknowledge that some medications have addictive properties but all risks and benefits are outlined and taken in account when prescribing such medication.

I hope this addresses your concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

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