



17th September, 2021

Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to this Department for response.

PQ Ref: PQ41766/21

PQ: To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of 30 additional dementia advisors and key workers.

The Dementia Adviser service is a community-based early intervention service primarily for people living with dementia and for their families. The role of the Dementia Adviser (DA) is to provide a locally based, individualised, information, signposting, and emotional support service to people who are concerned about their cognitive health and/or have a diagnosis of dementia and for their families and friends, at all stages of their journey, from diagnosis through to end-of-life.

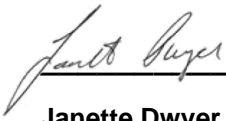
The National Dementia Strategy outlined a commitment for the Health Service Executive to consider the provision of Dementia Advisers on the basis of the experience of demonstrator sites. Following an independent evaluation of the Dementia Adviser service in 2018 (Coffey et al, 2018), the national service has grown from 8 Dementia Advisers to 28, with final recruitment of posts currently taking place. In addition to the 28 Dementia Adviser provided through the Alzheimer Society of Ireland and funded by the HSE, a National Coordinator has also been appointed.

The National Dementia Office (NDO) in the HSE and the Alzheimer's Society (ASI) are utilising the recommendations from the external evaluation of the Dementia Advisers role to inform new service development. An oversight group has been established and a cross-disciplinary implementation and integration group has been formed to support greater integration of the service with key areas.

The Health Service Executive currently funds the National Dementia Adviser Service at a total cost of €1,504,657 in 2021. The cost for one dementia adviser (pay and non-pay costs) is €59,223. At this salary level, the cost for 30 dementia advisers would be €1,776,690.

There is no nationally approved Dementia Key Worker role.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Janette Dwyer", is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

**Janette Dwyer,
Assistant National Director,
Change and Innovation, Services for Older People & Dementia Care,**