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**PQ Ref 44566/21**

**To ask the Minister for Health his plans to allocate funding in Budget 2022 to voluntary mental health and suicide prevention charities not already in receipt of funding from his Department given the increased demand for such services due to the Covid-19 pandemic.**

Dear Deputy,

Our office has been requested to respond to your question above.

A considerable number of NGOs are already funded by the HSE to provide supports for the general population, mental health promotion, self-help and information services, encompassing societal wellbeing, resilience and safety. More formalised people-to-people services (for those with more mild to moderate difficulties) may also be delivered by HSE-funded agencies, and within GP and Primary Care services.

The following information is on national funding to NGOs from the HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP) and HSE Mental Health, and excludes others that may also receive funding at local level, from HSE Community Healthcare Organisations (CHOs) or from other sources (e.g., Healthy Ireland, the Sláintecare Integration Fund).

Presently the HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP) funds 20 national NGOs, all providing support at different levels or to specific, targeted groups. Funding is provided in alignment with goals, objectives and actions in [Connecting for Life, Ireland's National Strategy to Reduce Suicide](#). As we plan ahead to 2022 and beyond, funding will also be aligned to [Sharing the Vision – A Mental health Policy for Everyone](#).

- Aware
- BeLonG To Youth Services
- SpunOut.ie
- Dublin Simon Community
- First Fortnight Ltd
- GAA
- ISPCC/Childline
- LGBT Ireland
- Men's Health Forum Ireland
- MyMind
- National Suicide Research Foundation (NSRF)
- Pieta House
- Samaritans
- Shine (SeeChange, Headline)
- Suicide or Survive (SOS)
- Transgender Equality Network Ireland (TENI)
- Turn2Me
- Union of Students in Ireland
- Exchange House
- National Family Resource Centres Mental Health Promotion Project.

In the context of your question, HSE Mental Health also funds the following NGOs on a national basis;

- Foróige
- Grow Ireland
- ADHD Ireland
- Mental Health Ireland
- Mental Health Reform

- Jigsaw
- Text 50808
- BodyWhys
- St John Of God Hospital
- Bloomfield Hospital
- Highfield Hospital.

Each of these NGOs is an independent Section 39 organisation with a Board of Directors who has responsibility to adhere to compliance with the law and support best practice in the governance, management and administration as set out by the Charities Regulator. Funding provided by the HSE is restricted and provided for specific purposes which are agreed annually with each organisation, in Service Level Agreements (SLAs). Documentation related to applications for Section 39 funding is available [here](#).

Since the onset of the pandemic in Ireland, the HSE has been proactive in considering both the financial and non-financial challenges of Section 39 agencies due to COVID-19. The process of negotiating SLAs for 2022 with each agency is presently underway, and involves careful consideration and analysis of needs, with particular emphasis on adapting services and responding to the challenges of the current pandemic.

It should be noted that in addition to pre-agreed funding, the HSE NOSP allocated additional once-off funding was allocated to specific projects in 2020. This was made possible through a once-off allocation (€590k) from the Department of Health to NOSP, with a particular emphasis on pandemic-specific response or adaptation projects. You can read more on funding made available through the NOSP, in our [Annual Report for 2020](#).

### **HSE Psychosocial Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic**

Finally, you might like to note that as part of the HSE's overall COVID-19 ongoing and recovery response, the [HSE Psychosocial Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic framework](#) was published in January 2021. This national psychosocial response plan has been developed to provide strategic direction and guidance across national, community and acute sectors of the HSE. It incorporates eight action areas and 21 distinct recommendations, to establish a sustained national and on the ground psychosocial response across the country for the general population, priority groups and health sector workers. NGOs and the community sector are important partners in this psychosocial

response to the pandemic, which aims to bring together different strands of existing services to ensure a fully integrated strategic plan is in place for the entire sector.

The Estimates process focuses on high-level priorities aligned to national strategy and policy, taking account of strategic priorities, operational requirements, and known demand and capacity issues. On confirmation of the budget, further discussion and engagement will take place to finalise and sign off on planned developments for 2022.

I trust this information is useful for you. Please do revert if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely,



Mr John Meehan

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& Head of National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP)

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