



Dearadh agus Nuálaíocht Chliniciúil; Oifig an Príohoifigeach Cliniciúil
Ospidéal Dr. Steevens, D08 W2A8
R: clinicaldesign@hse.ie

Clinical Design & Innovation; Office of the Chief Clinical Officer
Dr Steevens' Hospital, D08 W2A8
E: clinicaldesign@hse.ie

14th October, 2021

Deputy Bernard J Durkan, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 47457/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons diagnosed with various forms of diabetes in Ireland; the number and treatment; the extent to which the disease can be removed as a major threat to health; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Durkan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Clinical Programme for Diabetes on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

Currently, there is no accurate figure for the number of people living with diabetes in Ireland, as we do not have a National Diabetes Registry. The establishment of a National Diabetes Registry is a key priority of the National Clinical Programme (NCP) for Diabetes. Establishment of a registry would help with tracking the prevalence of the condition, measuring outcomes, cost of care and planning for future services. A National Diabetes Registry would also generate important data for future audit and research in Ireland.


A National Diabetes Registry Working Group was established in 2018. A detailed specification plan for a National Diabetes Registry was submitted to the Sláintecare Integration Fund in April 2019. Work commenced on agreeing the number of data sources, agreeing a minimum dataset and to clarify governance structures and resourcing of staffing and ICT support.

Funding was sourced via Sláintecare Integration Fund. However, the support of public health and ICT was required and, due to COVID-19 pandemic, this work could not be continued and funding was returned.

Type 1 diabetes cannot currently be cured, although advances have been made in the area of technology and the so-called “artificial pancreas” has become a reality for some patients in Ireland. Type 2 diabetes cannot be cured, although the disease can be put into remission with efforts in weight management, exercise or with bariatric/metabolic surgery. The latter approach is currently being assessed by HIQA as part of a Health Technology Assessment.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Anne Horgan
General Manager

