



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Martin Browne.  
Dail Eireann,  
Dublin 2.

11th May 2022

**PQ Number: 21415/22**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 352 of 24 February 2022, the status of the feasibility study into remunerating service user family member carers - Martin Browne**

**Further Details:** *Follow up to previous PQ 10596/22*

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Dear Deputy Browne,

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.

The HSE did not initiate the feasibility study into remunerating service user family member carers, this was initiated by the Department of Health's Patient Safety Legislation and Advocacy - National Patient Safety Office.

Aside from the HSE's work on the Service User Family Member Carer programme, the Department is separately developing a policy for the selection and remuneration of patient representatives who participate on committees and working groups that are involved in strategic decision-making in relation to the development of health policy and the design of health services. The purpose of developing a Patient Voice Partner Policy is to ensure that patient participation is embedded in health policy and service development and to ensure that patient voice partners are recognised and valued for their contribution.

It is widely recognised in the health sector, both nationally and internationally, that patients have a central role to play, as service users, in the development of health policy and the reform of the health services. Patient representatives participate on a number of committees and working groups across the Department of Health, the HSE and health agencies and make a significant contribution to the strategic decision-making work of those committees and groups.

Following the completion of a comprehensive stakeholder engagement, work on the technical requirements of the policy is now being progressed at Departmental level.

As HSE Mental Health Services await guidance and legislation in relation to SUFMC remuneration for their involvement in service improvement work from the DOH, we will continue to ensure that the voice



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of SUFMC's who volunteer in service improvement roles is valued, through prompt payment of expenses, provision of training and support to undertake the role and to enhance their personal development.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Ryan".

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**Jim Ryan**  
**Assistant National Director - Head of Operations**  
**National Mental Health Services**