

22nd February, 2022

Deputy Jennifer Carroll MacNeill, TD
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

Re PQ 6671/22

To ask the Minister for Health the allocation and sub-allocation of additional Covid-19 funding for the health needs of homeless persons since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic; the name of recipients or organisations of additional funding; the amount of funding left unspent in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Re PQ 6672/22

To ask the Minister for Health the amount of funding that was allocated, unallocated or unspent on Covid-19 initiatives in the winter and pandemic plans for the period March 2020 to December 2021; the allocation to named recipients and organisations for additional addiction and mental health needs of homeless persons during this period; the allocations of funding for the health needs of homeless persons in 2022 and 2023, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to your above Parliamentary Questions which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position:

Covid19/ Homeless Winter Plan Initiatives were met through existing budgets for 2020. During 2021 there was an available budget of €11m aligned to Covid 19/ Homeless Winter Plan. The HSE drew down €8,315,374 from the Dept. of Health and issued a total amount of €8,000,508 (€314,866 was unspent - see Table 5 for further details). Funding was used to provide the following initiatives:

1. Temporary emergency accommodation initiatives (Table 1): These initiatives were focused on providing the isolation and shielding facilities to homeless individuals as well as appropriate supports. The goal was to reduce the density of homeless emergency accommodation, potential spread of the virus and to protect those who were deemed vulnerable due to age or medical condition.

2. Increased GP capacity (Table 2): Since virus and the associated control measures to protect the wider population have the potential to exacerbate existing health inequalities, in order meet the health needs of homeless population, GP capacity was increased across several CHO areas. Main goals were to ensure access to healthcare, making sure individual needs are met, whilst minimising risk of coronavirus transmission.

3. Other COVID – 19 related initiatives (Table 3): Homeless clinical lead and response team were established to ensure protocols for identification and response to COVID 19 among homeless. Tracking, Tracing, Isolating and Transport Team has further supported their operations.

4. National Social Inclusion and Public Health support (Table 4): National Social Inclusion and Public health have established agreement with SafetyNet in order to enable timely detection of COVID - 19 clusters

Regarding the additional mental health and addiction supports (Table 6) delivered to people experiencing homelessness, in 2020 the amount allocated was €571,203 and in 2021, €2,283,045. These initiatives are the ones funded through NSP within homelessness.

Table 1 Funding for Temporary Emergency Accommodation (TEA) related initiatives by CHO area

CHO area	Recipients of funding	2021 Allocation	2021 spend
CHO1	TEA: Sligo Social Services and Finisklin Housing Association	€17,000	€17,000
CHO2	TEA: Cope Galway	€328,000	€328,000
CHO3	TEA: Novas	€777,600	€777,600
CHO4	TEA: Simon Community	€580,448	€580,448
CHO5	TEA: DePaul Trust	€132,000	€132,000
CHO8	TEA: Midlands, Louth, Meath Healthcare	€134,000	€134,000
CHO9	TEA: Coolmine, Anna Liffey, Depaul, Cross Care, Peter McVerry Trust	€3,552,000	€3,552,000
Total		€5,521,048	€5,521,048

Table 2 Funding and for increased GP Capacity at low threshold GP clinics, by CHO area

CHO area	Recipients of funding	2021 Allocation	2021 spend
CHO2	Simon Community	€198,000	€198,000
CHO3	Mid-West Community Healthcare	€99,000	€99,000
CHO7	SafetyNet GP	€140,000	€140,000
Total		€437,000	€437,000

Table 3 Funding for COVID-19 related initiatives for different Community Health Organisation areas

CHO area	Recipients of funding	2021 Allocation	2021 spend
CHO7	Continuation of Covid-19 Housing Initiatives: (Two partnerships) Kildare Leader Partnership and South Dublin County Partnership)	€252,000	€252,000
CHO9	7 Day service to include Homeless Clinical Lead and the Homeless Covid response coordination team to manage Covid Response for Winter Plan: Anna Liffey	€220,000	€220,000
CHO9	Tracking, Tracing, Isolating Transport Team: Ana Liffey	€894,000	€894,000
CHO9	North East Inner City coordination support	€55,000	€55,000
CHO9	Homeless Hospital Discharge Programme: Mater and St James Hospitals	€183,826	€183,826
Total		€1,604,826	€1,604,826

Table 4 Funding for Winter Plan initiatives via National Public Health/Social Inclusion

CHO area	Recipients of funding	2021 Allocation	2021 spend
National PH/SI	Rapid detection of Covid 19 clusters via Safetynet	€600,000	€304,909
National PH/SI	Track outcome measurements for the above winter plan initiatives: St. Dominics Community Response Project	€70,000	€50,225
National PH/SI	Increase public health capacity for social inclusion: St. Dominics Community Response Project /HSE	€82,500	€82,500
Total		€752,500	€437,634

Table 5 Summary of Total Funding Requirements across 4 project categories for 2021

Total Funding Requirement in 2021	Temporary accommodation		Increased GP capacity at low threshold GP clinics		Other COVID - 19 related initiatives		National Social Inclusion and Public Health support	
	Allocated: €5,521,048	Spent: €5,521,048	Allocated: €437,000	Spent: €437,000	Allocated: €1,604,826	Spent: €1,604,826	Allocated: €752,500	Spent: €437,634
2021 Allocated: €8,315,374 2021 Spent: €8,000,508								
Out of total of €11, 000,000 available budget, amount left unallocated is €2,684,626; of €8,315,374 allocated, total amount left unspent is: €314,866								

Table 6 Funding for the addiction and mental health supports

CHO area	Project name and recipients of funding	Programme area	2020 allocation	2021 Allocation
CHO2	*Housing First in regional centres (Galway) – Simon Community	Mental health and addiction	€184,535	€184,532
CHO2	*Housing First - expansion into regional counties (Co. Galway, Mayo & Roscommon): Simon Community	Mental health and addiction		€170,000
CHO3	*Housing First - expansion into regional counties (Co. Clare): Focus Ireland	Mental health and addiction	€140,000	€140,000
CHO4	Homeless step-down transitional treatment	Addiction		€500,000
CHO4	*Housing First in regional centres (Cork): HSE	Mental health and addiction	€166,668	€166,666
CHO4	*Housing First - expansion into regional counties (Co. Kerry): HSE	Mental health and addiction		€150,625
CHO5	*Housing First in regional centres (South East): HSE	Mental health and addiction	€80,000	€80,000
CHO7	Stepped Model of Mental Health Care for Homeless: HSE	Mental health		€501,222
CHO9	Assertive homeless case management team (NEIC): Anna Liffey	Mental health and addiction		€390,000
Total			€571,203	€2,283,045

For the Deputy's information funding for 2022 is currently being finalised as part of the HSE's Service Planning process for 2022 and funding for 2023 will be agreed as part of a similar process for 2023.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Doyle', written in a cursive style.

Joseph Doyle
National Lead, Social Inclusion