



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

1st March 2022

8279/22

To ask the Minister for Health the way funding given to charities for mental health services is monitored; if he will ensure that psychotherapists employed by these charities are paid a fair and just wage; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Richard Boyd Barrett

Dear Deputy Boyd Barrett,

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 review of psychotherapy services provided by S39 charity organisations (providers) is monitored on a regular basis by the HSE and service reports are provided and reviewed in accordance with the terms and conditions outlined in the service agreements in any given year. The HSE through service agreements purchases counselling hours at a fixed rate, this rate would include an element of pay and overhead. The rate charged is reflective of market conditions and the element of a just wage is reflected in the price that the HSE pay the providers. In 2022 the rate has increased in some instances to reflect the market conditions and the HSE has accepted and agreed to pay providers this increase.

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

Yours sincerely,

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