



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Colm Burke,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

24th January 2022

PQ Number: 63619/21

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if consideration will be given to establishing a mental health first aid responder unit to be contactable along with other emergency services; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Colm Burke

Dear Deputy Burke,

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.

To answer the Deputy's question, a proposal to develop a Mental Health Response Team as an effective model for managing 999 originating mental health calls is currently being considered by the HSE. This proposal would be a partnership with HSE National Mental Health Services and the National Ambulance Service / National Emergency Operations Centre and will be developed for consideration as part of the Estimates process for 2023.

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