



28<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Deputy Jackie Cahill, TD  
Dáil Eireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2.

**Re PQ: 30558/22**

To ask the Minister for Health if there are any alternate options for persons who cannot afford the admission fees for private addiction treatment services including those at an organisation (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cahill,

I refer to your above Parliamentary Question which had been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

Addiction services in Ireland are referred to in terms of tier 1, tier 2, tier 3 and tier 4 (see appendix 1). An important principal of the four-tier model is that clients should be offered the least intensive intervention appropriate to their need when they present for treatment initially. Where lower tier levels of care have not been successful, more intensive interventions should be offered.

Addressing the issue of drug/alcohol dependence is a complex matter. Clients' needs vary and not all clients will need to avail of all aspects of a 4 tiered system. Some clients can have all their needs met through accessing services at tiers 1, 2 and 3. However it is important to assess when a client needs to access a tier 4 service. The HSE has funded a number of tier 4 residential treatment beds/treatment episodes with Section 39 funded services. There are several stages before a referral to a residential service is made such as: a comprehensive assessment would be undertaken by competent staff or multi-d team within a HSE Tier 3 and/or HSE nominated Tier 3 voluntary agency service, the client would be supported to work at a Tier 3 level prior to referring to Tier 4 unless there is a specific risk factor for this not to happen, a pre-treatment and post treatment care plan is agreed between the client, the referring agency and the residential service. While the HSE funds the treatment episode, some services can ask for a contribution from the clients also on



some kind of sliding scale, while keeping to the principal that inability to contribute does not preclude participation.

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 that reads "Eamon Keenan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

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Prof Eamon Keenan  
National Clinical Lead - Addiction Services

Appendix 1: The 4 tier model of care as outlined in the National Drugs Rehabilitation Framework Document, 2010



**Figure 2: Rehabilitation Services/Interventions as seen within the Four Tier Model**

*Note. The above figure reflects the core business of services and these services may operation specific interventions at difference tiers. For example, tier 2 interventions may be delivered separately from Tier 3 but will often also be delivered in the same setting and by the same staff as Tier 3 interventions, as per the National Treatment Agency Models of Care: 2006 Update (see appendix 1 for more details).*