



Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin,
Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
R: PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie

Head of Operations, Mental Health Service
St Loman's Hospital,
Palmerstown, Dublin 20.
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Deputy Mark Ward.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

25th July 2022

PQ Number: 32529/22

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of increasing Traveller mental health funding by 10%; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Mark Ward

Dear Deputy Ward,

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.

Currently, Mental Health are not in a position to report on expenditure and budget by service category. The current financial reporting system is aligned to Annual Financial Statement type (i.e. nursing pay, Drugs & Medicines etc.) and does not align to the services and sub-services in operation

However for the Deputy's information, the HSE's National Social Inclusion Office recently conducted a scoping exercise of Traveller health cost centres and budgets across the Community Health Care Organisations' and identified a Traveller Health allocation of approximately €10million directly attributed to Traveller Health.

In addition other Areas of the HSE provide services in relation to Traveller Health including Mental Health, Acute Hospital Services and Emergency Departments, Primary Care Services and GPs providing front line services and attributed budgets are not available.

There have been a number of grants secured for Traveller Mental Health in 2022. These include:

- €365,890 mental health (once-off funding applied for in December 2021 to support Traveller organisations in mental health engagement). Funding approved by the National Mental Health Strategic Planning Group in April 2022.
- €4,000 secured to complement the Spark Ignite initiative to explore /develop and agree possible quality standards for working with Travellers, which will be embedded in the Mental Health Commission standards and the HSE Ethnic Minorities and Mental Health guidelines.



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- €55,000 awarded from the HSE NOSP and the Office of Mental Health Engagement and Recovery, for a Peer Lead Research project to develop a Traveller Mental Wellness Continuum Framework in collaboration with NUIG (Health Promotion Research Centre).
- €1,000 awarded to the National Traveller Mental Health coordinator group for winning the HSE's Health Innovation Hub Ireland (HIHI) Sparke Ignite initiative. This is to explore quality standards of working with Travellers.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Mc Cusker'.

Tony Mc Cusker
General Manager
National Mental Health Services