



31<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Deputy Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, TD  
Dáil Eireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2.

**Re PQ: 25186/22**

To ask the Minister for Health the estimated full-year cost to fund universal access to the FGM Treatment Service including wraparound supports including mental health services, sexual and reproductive care and counselling.

Dear Deputy,

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

As part of our commitments to implementation of actions under the Third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, the HSE National Social Inclusion Office provide funding of €38,000 to the Irish Family Planning Association (IFPA), FGM Treatment Service and €70,000 to AkiDwA annually. IFPA provides free specialised medical care and counselling to women who have experienced FGM. The service model involves four key components: (1) clinical service provision, including referral pathways to secondary care; (2) training and capacity-building with service providers; (3) sexual and reproductive health outreach with affected communities; and (4) building and maintaining relationships with key stakeholders.

In 2014 the IFPA collaborated with AkiDwA the Migrant Women's Network to provide specialised care and support to women and girls affected by FGM in our community. This was an important step forward in the Government's commitment to address the issue, following on from the National plan of Action in 2008 and criminal legislation enacted in 2012. AkiDwA has been working to combat Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). They engage with a broad range of organisations at local, regional and national level to deliver training to frontline services and healthcare professionals as well raising awareness of FGM among affected communities targeting women, young people, men, faith/religious leaders and others.

The Revised and updated Third edition of the Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) handbook for Healthcare professionals working in Ireland was published in 2021 and produced by AkiDwA with support from the HSE National Social Inclusion Office. It is envisaged that this resource will be of help to a range of healthcare professionals.



For the Deputy's information, The HSE directly provides supports via the Women's Health Service (WHS) and Anti-Human Trafficking Team (AHTT) statutory service. The WHS operates sexual health clinic services and outreach support to women/trans women involved in the sex industry. The AHTT has responsibility for care planning for both female/male victims of trafficking in all areas of exploitation. For the period 2021 to 2022, the budget allocation to these services' is €834,000. It is not possible to isolate the proportion directly attributed towards FGM supports/interventions.

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 over a horizontal line.

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Joseph Doyle  
National Lead, Social Inclusion