



Oifig an Príomhoifigeach  
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Lár Tire,  
An Lú, An Mhí

Oifig na bPríomhoifigeach, An Chéad Urlár,  
Coimhleasc Naomh Bríd, Bóthar Cheanannais  
Bhaile Átha Fhirdia, Co Lú, A92 DRN0

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6<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Deputy Fergus O'Dowd  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ 42494/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the total HSE investment in the needle exchange on a monthly and yearly basis in respect of the proposed new needle exchange for Drogheda which will be operated in the premises of an organisation (Red Door Project in Drogheda); the expected commencement date for the service to be operational; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Fergus O'Dowd**

Dear Deputy O'Dowd,

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 outlined the position as follows.

The HSE have organised for 4 staff from the Red Door to receive training for the Needle Exchange and syringe programme. This training was provided by MQI. Following this training, the staff will be required to shadow for a period of time.

The Red Door are in the process of updating their Policies, Procedures and Guidelines for the Needle Exchange and syringe programme and will forward these to the HSE once completed. The Red Door are working on a Governance Structure to support this programme and will notify the HSE once they have this in place. A commencement date will be agreed at this time.

The HSE has agreed to fund the insurance costs for this programme to the value of €3,500 pa which has been paid for 2022/2023.

It was agreed that the HSE will provide the stock for the Needle Exchange and syringe programme once the training, shadowing, policies and governance structures are in place.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

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Des O'Flynn  
Chief Officer  
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation