



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,
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Deputy Mark Ward,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

14th October 2022

PQ Number: 47681/22

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of sports organisations that have received mental health and well-being training by sport, by club and gender, in 2021 and to date in 2022, in tabular form; 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.

Under Connecting for Life (Ireland's National Strategy to Reduce Suicide), the HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP) provides a range of suicide prevention and postvention training programmes (see www.nosp.ie/training) to support community gate keepers.

Staff and volunteers from sporting organisations frequently take part in this training and collaborate with the national network of HSE Resource Officers for Suicide Prevention on local community responses to suicide.

- In 2020 and 2021 the delivery of face-to-face suicide prevention training programmes was paused due to public health restrictions.
- To date in 2022, 81 participants in suicide prevention training programmes, categorised themselves as being from sporting organisations. A breakdown of this information by club, sport or gender is not available.
- Since the onset of the pandemic, an additional online suicide prevention awareness programme – LivingWorks Start - was made widely available. Licences issued for LivingWorks Start total 3,700 in 2020, 5,271 in 2021 and 3,139 in 2022 (to date). Participant information on professional background, is not available for this online programme.



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The NOSP also works with sporting agencies to promote suicide prevention training among their established wellbeing networks and members. For example, with the [GAA Healthy Clubs Initiative](#) and the [FAI Women's National League](#), mainly to promote the safeTALK and ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) to clubs and members. The NOSP provides annual funding of €50k to the GAA Healthy Clubs Initiative for these purposes, and also to support GAA responses to suicide-related critical incidents in their communities and clubs.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tony Mc Cusker'.

Tony Mc Cusker
General Manager
National Mental Health Services