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PQ 17051/23

To ask the Minister for Health the amount of funding required to ensure that the National Skin Cancer Prevention Plan 2023-2026 is implemented in full; the amount of funding that has been allocated to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Hourigan

The National Skin Cancer Prevention Plan is a cross-sectoral collaboration, with implementation led by the National Skin Cancer Prevention Implementation group and co-ordinated by the HSE National Cancer Control Programme.

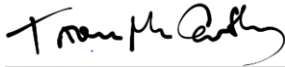
The first National Skin Cancer Prevention Plan was launched in July 2019 and ran to 2022. Approximately €630,000 was spent on its implementation. This included investment from the HSE National Cancer Control Programme, Healthy Ireland and Sláintecare. While the implementation of the plan to date is an example of effective cross-sectoral collaboration, sustained long-term efforts and continued investment are required to achieve a reduction in skin cancer incidence. To date, the cost of implementing the plan has increased year on year due to the increasing activity across the action areas.

The National Skin Cancer Prevention Plan (2023-2026) launched in March 2023 and will continue to drive and support collaboration between government departments, statutory bodies, healthcare services and professionals, non-governmental organisations and public patient representatives. Engagement with a wide range of stakeholders will continue to explore ways that the actions within the National Skin Cancer Prevention Plan 2023-2026 can be aligned with organisational goals and opportunities for co-funding projects and initiatives. The aim of the National Skin Cancer Prevention Plan 2023-2026 is to build on the work already done to date in key action areas including education, media campaigns, environmental measures and policy changes across multiple settings.

New Service Development funding is allocated to the HSE National Cancer Control Programme, at the beginning of each financial year through the HSE National Service Plan, for the implementation of the National Cancer Strategy, including the implementation of the skin cancer prevention plan. The funding for the implementation of the skin cancer prevention plan covers any initiatives or programmes agreed

by the implementation group, and the cost of resources used to promote awareness of skin cancer prevention. A budget of 120,000 euro (cofunded by Healthy Ireland and the HSE National Cancer Control Programme) has been allocated specifically to the Healthy Ireland Sunsmart media campaign in 2023. Funding for the overall implementation of the Skin Cancer Prevention Plan 2023-2026 will be subject to the availability of resources following the annual spending review.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Caitríona McCarthy

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