



**Cúram Sláinte
Phobail, Iarthar**
ag freastal ar Ghailimh,
Maigheo agus Ros Comáin

**Community
Healthcare West**
serving Galway, Mayo
and Roscommon

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Frank Feighan TD
Dail Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

15th March 2023

RE: PQ 10062/23 To ask the Minister for Health the key services and supports available to adults with autism in County Roscommon once diagnosis takes place; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Feighan,

I refer to PQ 10062/23 uploaded to the PAD System on the 23rd February 2023 and due for response on the 13th March 2023 regarding representations that you have made to the Minister for Health. The HSE has been requested to reply directly to you on this matter. The following response outlines the position.

Please be advised that there are a number of different pathways for supports following autism diagnosis for adults. Adults with autism in Roscommon are supported by Primary Care, Mental Health Services and our agency partners in Disability Services based on identified needs.

Support delivered by agencies commissioned by Disability Services following diagnosis will differ for every adult as the needs like the diagnosis are on a spectrum. All supports are delivered on a needs basis and not on diagnosis. Such supports would include residential, respite, outreach, PA, day services etc.

Adults with high functioning autism and comorbid major mental disorders have been seen by the mental health services, but they do not provide services to adults with Autism specifically.

No specialist service for adults with autism exists in the adult psychology primary care service in Roscommon. However, adults with high functioning autism with comorbid anxiety and low mood who can benefit from brief primary care work have occasionally been seen by the primary care psychology service. These brief interventions focusing exclusively on managing low mood or anxiety can occur over a period of between 1 and 3 months.

Yours sincerely


Breda Crehan Roche
Chief Officer