



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,
Palmerstown, Dublin 20.
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Deputy Mark Ward,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

07th March 2023

PQ Number: 9547/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of qualified and accredited WTE counsellors and psychotherapists employed by the national counselling service (NCS); if he will provide a breakdown of staff per CHO; the number of appointments delivered by the NCS in 2022 in total and per CHO; the total number of clients that accessed the service; the total cost of the service; 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.

In order to answer your Parliamentary Question, I have consulted with the Director of Counselling for the HSE National Counselling Service (NCS) who has provided the following response.

The HSE National Counselling Service is a professional, confidential, counselling and psychotherapy service available free of charge in all regions of the country. The Service was established in 2000 to provide counselling to adults who had experienced childhood abuse particularly those who had been abused as children in State residential institutions.

In 2013 the NCS expanded to provide the Counselling in Primary Care (CIPC) service which is available to adults who hold a GMS card. CIPC is for adults who may be experiencing mild to moderate psychological difficulties. Clients are offered up to 8 counselling sessions.

The responses provided below relate to all services provided by the NCS.

NCS Staffing – Counsellor/Therapists

The total number of Whole Time Equivalent Counsellor/Therapists working in the NCS at the end of December was **127.3 WTE**.



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Table 1: Number of Counsellor/Therapists by CHO Area.

Area	WTE Counsellor/Therapist
CHO 1	12.7
CHO 2	11.3
CHO 3	Not available
CHO 4	12.0
CHO 5	20.5
CHO 6	7.4
CHO 7	18.2
CHO 8	28.5
CHO 9	16.7
Total	127.3

Number of Appointments Delivered by the NCS in 2022

101,385 counselling sessions were offered by the NCS in 2022.

Table 2: Total No. Counselling Sessions Offered by NCS in 2022

Area	Sessions Offered 2022
CHO 1	7909
CHO 2	8662
CHO 3*	8634
CHO 4	12589
CHO 5	12436
CHO 6	6282
CHO 7	11950
CHO 8	19370
CHO 9	13553
Total	101,385

* CHO 3 Data available for 10 Mths only



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Total number of clients that accessed the National Counselling Service

During 2022 a total of 22,121 clients accessed the National Counselling Service.

Total Cost of the NCS

The full year budget cost of the HSE National Counselling Service for 2023 is **€20,028,354**

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony McCusker', written over a horizontal line.

Tony McCusker
General Manager
National Mental Health Services