



An Oifig Náisiúnta um Chumhdach

Ospidéal Naomh Iósaf

Sráid Mulgrave

Luimneach

V94 C8DV

T: 061 461165 R: safeguarding.socialcare@hse.ie

National Safeguarding Office,

South East Wing,

St Joseph's Hospital, Mulgrave Street

Limerick.

V94 C8DV

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Date 15/02/2023

Jennifer Murnane O'Connor TD
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2
E: jennifer.murnaneoc Connor@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Murnane O'Connor,

PQ Number: PQ 2782/23

Question: To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of increasing safeguarding team staffing levels by 20% including employers PRSI; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

The HSE launched the National Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse, National Policy and Procedures in December 2014 and the HSE Adult safeguarding service is delivered by teams of social workers based across the nine HSE Community Health Care Organisations. The reply to your question is based on an estimated cost for increasing the current staffing teams by 20% including provision for employer's PRSI contribution and non-pay expenditure to expand team numbers. Note that staffing is based on August 2022 when the last audit was conducted. Please note that this is an estimation exercise based on the current staffing profile but does not reflect how future developments will be allocated.

The estimated overall expenditure of increasing the staffing levels on the basis set out above by 20% would require an additional annual investment of €1,690,480. Table 1 below provides the current staff breakdown, a 20% increase in investment could potentially lead to an increase in WTEs by 20.4 across the various social worker grading.



National Safeguarding Office

Table 1

Current Pay costs	Current Posts	Mid point scale	Total Pay at mid point	PRSI-10%	Non Pay-25%	Current Total	Revised Total inclusive of 20% increase
PSW	9	€74,529	€670,761	€67,076	€167,690		
SWTL	55	€65,920	€3,625,600	€362,560	€906,400		
PQSW	38	€51,702	€1,964,676	€196,468	€491,169		
Total	102	€192,151	€6,261,037	€626,104	€1,565,259	€8,452,400	€10,142,880

Yours Sincerely,

Tim Hanly



General Manager | National Safeguarding Office

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