

13<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Deputy Thomas Gould, TD  
Dáil Eireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2.

**PQ34093/23**

**To ask the Minister for Health the funding allocated in each of the past five years to address addiction issues for ethnic minorities, by year, in tabular form.**

Dear Deputy Gould,

The Health Service Executive have been requested to reply directly to your above Parliamentary Questions which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position:

The €2 million Community Services Enhancement Fund was launched in 2022 to enhance community-based drug and alcohol services. The fund is part of the strategic priority to enhance access to and delivery of drug and alcohol services in the community in the National Drugs Strategy 2021-2025.

In 2022, funding was allocated as follows:

- CHOs 2, 3, 5 & 6 each received €150,000
- CHOs 1, 4, 7, 8 & 9 each received €180,000

From 2023, CSEF is allocated per Community Healthcare Organisation (CHOs) as follows:

- CHOs 2, 3, 5 & 6 will each receive €200,000
- CHOs 1, 4, 7, 8 & 9 will each receive €240,000

Community Healthcare Organisations are required to allocate and ring-fence 25 per cent of their funding allocations for initiatives to increase access to and the provision of drug and alcohol services for women, ethnic minorities and the LGBTQIA community.

The attached Table 1 lists CSEF funding allocations for initiatives to increase access to and the provision of drug and alcohol services for women, ethnic minorities and the LGBTQIA community by CHO area in 2022 and 2023.

National addiction services are also available to all. It is not possible to extract the amount of funding which was spent on treatment for ethnic minorities groups over the past 5 years. However, the attached Table 2 describes the number of cases entering addiction treatment by self-defined ethnicity between 2018 and 2022, according to data from the National Drugs Treatment Reporting System.

Information on accessing national addiction services can be obtained through the National Directory of Drugs and Alcohol Services on [Drugs.ie \(http://drugs.ie/\)](http://drugs.ie/), Local Health Offices, Addiction Services, as well as Primary Care General Practitioners.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,



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Prof Eamon Keenan  
National Clinical Lead-Addiction Services  
HSE National Social Inclusion Office

**Table 1: CSEF funding allocations for initiatives to increase access to and the provision of drug and alcohol services for women, ethnic minorities and the LGBTIQIA community by CHO area**

CHO	2022 Ring-Fenced CSEF Funding	2023 Ring-Fenced CSEF Funding
1	45,000	60,000
2	37,500	50,000
3	37,500	50,000
4	45,000	60,000
5	37,500	50,000
6	37,500	50,000
7	45,000	60,000
8	45,000	60,000
9	45,000	60,000

**Table 2: Number of cases entering treatment by self-defined ethnicity, NDTRS 2018-2022**

Self-defined ethnicity	Year entered treatment				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
White Irish	15910	16159	13993	15801	17337
White Irish Traveller	488	498	412	528	547
Any other white background	944	1016	847	959	1112
Black or Black Irish - African	50	53	43	70	102
Black or Black Irish - Any other black background	46	43	35	47	46
Asian or Asian Irish - Chinese	8	6	<5	<5	9
Asian or Asian Irish - Any other Asian background	25	26	23	34	48
Other including mixed background	82	77	56	55	60
White Roma	9	16	14	17	21
Do not wish to answer this question	9	7	5	7	16
Not known	167	309	97	106	132
<b>Total</b>	<b>17738</b>	<b>18210</b>	<b>15525</b>	<b>17624</b>	<b>19430</b>