



Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin,
Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
R: PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie

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Deputy Catherine Murphy.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

06th September 2023

PQ Number: 35937/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost in 2024 if 25 additional WTE suicide crisis assessment nurses were recruited. – Catherine Murphy

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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 2014 the National Clinical Programme for the Assessment and Management of Patients who present to the Emergency Department (NCPSH) was introduced in a number of Emergency Departments across the country that were operating on a 24/7 basis. In 2016 an agreed Model of Care (MOC) was published and the service expanded. The MOC established a clinical framework to ensure that any person who presents to the ED following self-harm or with suicide-related ideation receives a compassionate, empathic, validating response, and a therapeutic assessment and intervention from a suitably trained mental health professional; that every effort is made to ensure that a family member or supportive adult is involved in assessment and safety planning, and that they are followed up and linked to appropriate next care.

The original MOC identified the need to develop access to urgent mental health care in a non- ED setting, along with ensuring people who present to the ED receive an optimum service. As a result an updated MOC was publically launched in 2022. While continuing to maintain and further improve the NCP within ED's in the acute hospital setting, the updated MOC now extends into the community.

An important recommendation in the updated MOC is having a Suicide Crisis Assessment Nurse (SCAN) service available to GP's in local areas in all parts of Ireland. SCAN's provide assessment and support to GP patients who present with suicide-related thoughts. They provide an early intervention to patients who may otherwise be referred to ED's, or placed on a waiting list for a community mental health team.



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The table below provides the estimated costs associated with recruiting an additional 25 WTE SCAN nurses.

| Grade | Post | WTE Total | Salary Mid Point (Full) | Allowance | Salary plus Allowances | Annual Salary (WTE) | Annual PRSI | Total Annual Pay | Non Pay | Per CNS Nurse | Total Budget for 25 CNS Nurses |
|-------|---------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|------------------------|---------------------|-------------|------------------|---------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| 2625 | Clinical Nurse Specialist | 25.0 | 60,789 | 5,449 | 66,238 | 66,238 | 7,319 | 73,557 | 6,624 | 80,181 | 2,004,527 |

Please note the following;

1. The estimated costs are based on the Health Sector Consolidated Salary Scales in accordance with the FEMPI Acts, the Public Service Agreements and the Public Service Pay and Pensions Act 2017 and these scales must be read in conjunction with Department of Health Circular 3/2023
2. These posts are costed at Senior Level
3. Building Momentum, the Public Service Agreement 2021-2023 (as reviewed) gives effect to the following adjustments: Increases to the annualised basic rate of pay as follows:
 - An increase of 2% due on 1 March 2023
 - Increases to the rates of allowances in the nature of pay as follows:
 - An increase of 2% due on 1 March 2023
4. The sanction of the Minister is now conveyed for the application of these revised rates as appropriate with effect from 1 March 2023
5. This is an estimation only. Full Non pay costs including travel, subsistence, accommodation and IT equipment are not included.



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I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

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

Tony Mc Cusker
General Manager
National Mental Health Services