



Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
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Deputy Martin Browne.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

3rd May 2023

PQ Number: 13407/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health Further to Parliamentary Question No. 239 of 1 February 2023, if consideration will be given to a National Feeding Disorders Programme, given feeding disorders fall outside the scope of the National Clinical Programme for Eating Disorders; if he plans to provide an inclusive service for children with avoidant restrictive food intake disorder who have ASD and can therefore do not fit the criteria for mental health intervention as referenced in the response; if he is aware of this shortcoming in services; the way he intends to address same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Martin Browne

Comments: Previous PQ: 4963/23

Dear Deputy Browne,

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.

As per responses to your **PQ 4963/23** and **PQ 10422/23**, there is a lack of research, best practice information and evidence based treatments for ARFID. As a consequence ARFID is not included in NICE guidelines for Eating Disorders (2017 or 2020 update). ARFID is also not included in APA American Psychiatric Association draft guidelines for eating disorders 2022. Treatment plans are best developed in a bespoke manner by treating teams and guided by the profile of the individual case. Treatment is likely to be multimodal, multidisciplinary and involve multiple settings (mostly outpatient). Given the absence of an evidence base for service models or formal treatments, there are no national HSE care pathways or clinical lead for ARFID. Cases of ARFID will present across health care settings including primary care, disability services, paediatrics, adult medicine, mental health services, feeding clinics and eating disorder services.

A pilot outpatient ARFID service or feeding clinic was recently established in England during 2019 at the Maudsley Centre for Child and Adolescent Eating Disorders, and this is leading the development of clinical services, care pathways, training and research. Recommendations where services for ARFID best sit within



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health systems are awaited and currently not known. Domains of assessment need to include psychosocial, developmental, dietetic and medical. Management of individuals with ARFID in Ireland require collaborative working between a number of professionals and, depending on a person's needs and level of complexity, may involve joint working between the acute hospital sector and HSE community healthcare divisions such as Primary Care, Disability and Mental Health. Effective treatment and care planning requires access to dietetics across mental health, disability and outpatient paediatric services. Such joint working is governed by existing joint working protocols and established CHO and hospital governance structures.

In context of the above, National Mental Health are not aware of any plans for a National Feeding Disorders Programme.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amir Niazi', on a white background.

**Dr Amir Niazi National Clinical Advisor & Group Lead for Mental Health
Clinical Design and Innovation
Health Service Executive**