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Deputy Holly Cairns.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

24th March 2023

PQ Number: 14299/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide details of the amount of unspent monies from mental health services budgets returned to the Exchequer relating to 2022. -Holly Cairns

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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 2022 the Mental Health service budget amounted to €1,228m. At year end Mental Health expenditure amounted to €1,221m leaving a year end surplus of €7m or (0.6%). This surplus of €7m is mainly relating to the difficulties recruiting replacement posts and the level and specialities of staff required for an improved model of care in mental health services. Any unspent funding at year end on the revenue side is used on an end of year basis to cover unfunded costs elsewhere in the HSE. It is important to stress that the entire underspent funds happening on once-off basis in any year are made fully available to Mental Health for spend in all subsequent years.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Ryan
Assistant National Director - Head of Operations
National Mental Health Services