



Robert Troy TD
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

robert.troy@oireachtas.ie

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PQ ref 23297/23

To ask the Minister for Health if he will confirm the engagement he has had to date with an organisation (details supplied); and the financial supports his Department is providing it. SOSAD.

Dear Deputy,

The HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP) has been requested to respond to your question above.

National funding

SOSAD Ireland is not presently in receipt of funding from this Office, or the HSE on a national basis. A considerable number of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) receive funding for providing supports for the general population, mental health promotion, self-help and information services, encompassing societal wellbeing, resilience and safety. More formalised people-to-people services – for those with more mild to moderate difficulties – are also delivered by HSE-funded agencies, and within GP and Primary Care services.

Presently the HSE NOSP funds 21 national NGOs, all providing support at different levels or to specific, targeted groups. Funding is in alignment with goals, objectives and actions in [Connecting for Life, Ireland's National Strategy to Reduce Suicide](#).

HSE Mental Health also funds 11 NGOs on a national basis and in alignment with [Sharing the Vision – A Mental health Policy for Everyone](#).

- More information on nationally funded NGOs is available in HSE NOSP Annual Reports, available [here](#).

Funded NGOs are independent Section 39 organisations with a Board of Directors having responsibility to adhere to compliance with the law and support best practice in the governance, management and administration as set out by the Charities Regulator.

Funding provided by the HSE is restricted and provided for specific purposes, agreed annually with each organisation, in Service Level Agreements (SLAs). All funding agreements are considered in the context of relevant HSE criteria and governance requirements, and budgets. Understanding particular service needs and demands – as informed by services experiences, research, evidence, standards and best practice – is also important in assessing funding applications or making allocations.

- Documentation related to applications for Section 39 funding is available [here](#). This page includes information on the application and negotiation process, explanatory guides to documentation, standard templates and forms, National Service Plan Performance Indicators, and policies, procedures, guidelines and legislation documents.

Other funding

Other NGOs, community groups and initiatives may also receive funding at local level, for example from HSE Community Healthcare Organisations (CHOs). This is administered at local level and is subject to the same national governance framework for the funding of non-statutory services. In the context of suicide prevention, such funding arrangements are typically aligned with objectives and actions in local Connecting for Life Suicide Prevention Action Plans.

While I understand that SOSAD has not been in receipt of such CHO funding in recent years, I am aware that Midlands Louth Meath Mental Health Services met SOSAD Ireland and senior managers from the HSE in late 2021, to discuss the potential of a service arrangement. From this meeting SOSAD Ireland was to submit relevant documentation and other information, which has not yet been received. More recently, Louth Meath Mental Health Services have reiterated to

SOSAD Ireland that a meeting can be arranged to explore and discuss a service arrangement, once all the relevant documentation and information is submitted.

I trust this information is useful for you. Please do revert if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely,



Mr John Meehan

HSE Assistant National Director, Mental Health Planning
& Head of National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP)
johnf.meehan@hse.ie