



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta
Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte

Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin, Baile Phámar,
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Deputy Ivana Bacik.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

04th October 2023.

PQ Number: 38888/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if statutory guidelines will be issued in relation to foetal alcohol spectrum disorder and training for professionals working in adult mental health services. -Ivana Bacik

Dear Deputy Bacik,

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 my response to your Parliamentary Question **38889/23**, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is a group of disorders caused by prenatal alcohol exposure and are associated with a range of lifelong physical, mental, educational, social, and behavioural difficulties. Disability, primary care, paediatric services and mental health, are all involved in the provision of services for children and adults with FASD in Ireland.

The HSE has developed a position paper on the prevention of FASD which outlines 14 key actions for the HSE to be achieved within the next 5 years. This includes the development of a model of care for FASD. This body of work is been led by the Clinical Lead for FASD Prevention at the HSE Alcohol Programme and the FASD Expert Advisory Group. Action 11 of the position paper recommends

11	Undertake a training needs analysis to ascertain training needs specific to alcohol and FASD prevention for all staff, and use the findings to develop and implement an FASD awareness-raising campaign and professional development plan for healthcare staff	HSE Health & Wellbeing; National Women and Infants Health Programme; ONMSD	Short	Improved staff knowledge and skills in FASD prevention
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HSE National Mental Health Operations are not aware if statutory guidelines will be issued in relation to FASD. Further information can be found by contacting the Clinical Lead for FASD Prevention at the HSE Alcohol Programme and the FASD Expert Advisory Group:



<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/healthwellbeing/our-priority-programmes/alcohol-programme/hse-position-on-prevention-of-fasd.pdf>

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Mc Cusker', written in a cursive style.

Tony Mc Cusker
General Manager
National Mental Health Services