



Oifig an Chomhairleora Chliniciúil
Náisiúnta agus Ceannaire Grúpa do
Mheabhairshláinte

HSE, Ospidéal an Dr Stevens, Baile Átha
Cliath 8, DO8 W2A8

Office of the National Clinical
Advisor and Group Lead for Mental
Health

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Deputy Shortall,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Date: 9th April 2024

PQ Number: 14831/24

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health to report, in tabular form, the number of suicide crisis assessment nurses employed to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -
Róisín Shortall

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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.

A Model of Care National Clinical Programme for Self Harm and Suicide related Ideation provides a framework to improve services for all who self-harm or present with suicide-related ideation, regardless of where they present. Launched by Minister Butler in February 2022 it outlines in detail the response for people who present to the emergency department including services for children and adolescents with Self-harm and Suicide Related Ideation. The Model of Care ensures that those presenting to the ED receives a compassionate, empathic, validating response, and a therapeutic assessment and intervention from a suitably trained mental health professional. 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.

While continuing to maintain and further improve the NCP within the acute hospital EDs, the updated NCP SH MOC now extends into the community. An important feature in the Updated MOC is the incorporation of the existing Suicide Crisis Assessment Nurse (SCAN) service within the NCP SH. It will be rolled out nationally in the coming years as a collaboration between GPs and specialist mental health professionals, with the aim of delivering a service of similar quality for people who present in suicidal crisis in primary care settings. Further information and associated documents can be assessed at

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/self-harm-suicide-related-ideation/>

The current posts funded are listed below.

**SUICIDE CRISIS ASSESSMENT NURSE SERVICE (SCAN) –
CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALISTS**

COUNTY	WTE	RECRUITMENT
Carlow	1	In post
Cavan	1	In post
Cork (South Lee)	1	In post
Cork (North Lee)	1	In post
Cork(Middleton/Youghal)	1	In post
Cork	1	Maternity leave no back fill Held in recruitment pause
Donegal	1	In post
Donegal	1	In post
Dublin (North)	1	Held in recruitment pause
Dublin (CAMHS)	1	In post
Dublin (CAMHS)	1	In post
Laois	1	In post
Louth	1	Maternity leave commencing in May - no back fill
Mayo	1	Maternity leave no back fill Held in recruitment pause
Mayo	1	In post
Meath	1	In post
Monaghan	1	In post
Offaly	1	In post
Waterford	1	In post
Waterford	1	In post
Wexford	1	In post
Wexford	1	In post

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amir Niazi', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

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