



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta
Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte

Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin, Baile Phámar,
Baile Átha Cliath 20, D20 HK69

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Deputy Mark Ward
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

9th April 2024

PQ Number: 8989/24

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of people who received counselling from the counselling in primary care service, by year since 2019, by CHO area, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Mark Ward

Dear Deputy Ward

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.

The HSE National Counselling Service established Counselling in Primary Care (CIPC) in July 2013 as a mental health initiative to provide counselling to adults experiencing mild to moderate psychological difficulties who present in the primary care setting. CIPC receives an average of 19,000 referrals per annum. More than 170,000 people have been referred to CIPC since it was established with an average of 2,060 clients attending at any time.

All adults in receipt of a medical card are currently eligible for the service. Access is by referral from the client's GP or a member of the Primary Care Team. CIPC is available in each community health area and is accessible from over 240 locations, mainly primary care centres, situated throughout Ireland.

CIPC is an effective service which achieves positive outcomes for clients with additional benefits for overall physical and mental health.

The total number of clients who received counselling since 2019 is outlined in the table below with details by CHO and year.



Total No. Clients who Received Counselling by Year x CHO					
Area	2019*	2020*	2021	2022	2023
CHO1			925	900	955
CHO2			831	791	844
CHO3			1107	1025	864
CHO4			1199	1461	1,582.00
CHO5			1418	1196	1,183.00
CHO6			585	703	585
CHO7			900	1176	1,586.00
CHO8			1563	1697	2,441.00
CHO9			1138	1261	1,648.00
National Total	10615	10552	11687	10210	11688
*National total only available					

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Tony McCusker
General Manager
National Mental Health Services