

31<sup>st</sup> January 2024

Mark Ward, TD  
Dáil Eireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 1404/24**

**To ask the Minister for Health the funding for Traveller health in each of the years from 2019 to date; the funding allocated to Traveller mental health for the same period; if there is an increase in this funding in Budget 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Ward,

The Health Service Executive has been advised to reply directly to you in response to the above parliamentary question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for your response.

The below table gives a breakdown of dedicated Traveller health funding within the HSE for the years 2019-2023 inclusive and is an approximation of allocated budget for Traveller Health based on number of exercises previously undertaken. These figures were reviewed towards the end of 2023. Please note that the current HSE Forsa dispute has impacted our ability get more detailed breakdowns of some the figures outlined. The recurring budget allocation for 2024 will remain the same as in 2023 but there is a once off allocation to be made to the National Traveller Counselling Service of €200,000 from the mental health budget in 2024.

<b>Traveller Health Budget</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022*</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Total Traveller Health Budget (inclusive of mental health)	12,838,555	11,157,263	9,586,968	9,670,906	9,103,477
Total mental health allocation	629,375	425,890	144,723	230,220	372,253

\*2022 values based on actual spend as 2022 budget values not available due to Forsa industrial action

For the Deputy's information, in addition to funding identified above, other areas of the HSE provide services relevant to Traveller health, including Mental Health, Acute Hospital Services and Emergency Departments, Primary Care Services and GPs providing front line services and attributed budgets are not available.

Currently, the National Traveller Health Implementation Group is in the process of establishing a monitoring system to better track and analyse Traveller Health budgets and spending for future budgets.

This will enable us to have a clear analysis of Traveller health budgets including Traveller mental health budgets for future budgeting exercises.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Doyle', written in a cursive style.

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Joseph Doyle  
National Lead, Social Inclusion