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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Deputy Catherine Connolly  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

4<sup>th</sup> September 2024

**PQ Number: 33362/24-** To ask the Minister for Health his plans for a national strategy on osteoporosis, which would cover diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

**PQ Number: 33363/24-** To ask the Minister for Health the total funding allocated to osteoporosis diagnosis and treatment in each of the years 2019 to 2023, and to date in 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Connolly,

Thank you for your representations. The National Clinical Programme for Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery (NCPTOS) in its 2015 Model of Care (p 41)<sup>2</sup>, emphasises the importance of developing a bone health strategy which includes early diagnosis, health promotion, fracture risk assessment, fracture prevention through the establishment of a National Fracture Liaison Service (FLS), development of a skilled interdisciplinary workforce as well as timely and appropriate access to DEXA scanning as clinically indicated. Osteoporosis is characterised by reduced bone mass and disruption of bone architecture, resulting in increased bone fragility and increased fracture risk SCOPE (2021)<sup>1</sup>. It is estimated that at least 300,000 people in Ireland have osteoporosis.

The National Service Plan and letters of Determination from the DOH from 2019 – 2024 inclusive do not specify funding for Osteoporosis Diagnosis and Treatment. This does not confirm that there was no funding, rather that it was not specifically referenced for our budget system to identify. At this time there are no plans for the HSE to develop a national strategy on osteoporosis.

I hope this provides you with some assistance.

Yours sincerely

Sharon Hayden  
General Manager  
Office of the Chief Clinical Officer