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To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the work carried out for the mental health and wellbeing of LGBTI people since the publishing of The LGBTIreland Report; if there are plans for an updated study; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy,

The HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP) has been requested to respond to your question above.

Presently the HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP) funds 21 national NGOs, all providing mental health or suicide prevention supports at different levels or to specific, targeted groups. Funding is in alignment with goals, objectives and actions in [Connecting for Life, Ireland's National Strategy to Reduce Suicide](#). HSE Mental Health also funds 11 NGOs on a national basis and in alignment with [Sharing the Vision – A Mental health Policy for Everyone](#).

- More information on nationally funded NGOs is available in HSE NOSP Annual Reports, available [here](#).

There are three NOSP-funded national NGOs that provide services specifically for LGBTI communities.

- LGBT Ireland – Funding from the HSE NOSP specifically supports the training function of LGBT Ireland and the organisation's efforts to provide support and information to LGBTI+ people and their family members. This includes the development of a network of peer



support groups across the country, the delivery of mental health and suicide prevention initiatives for the LGBTI+ community, and the provision of a support helpline.

- **Belong To Youth Services** – Belong To’s National Network, and Mental Health programmes of work are supported by the HSE NOSP. These encompass a range of services and mental health initiatives for young LGBTI+ people delivered nationally through local networks across the country. They support the wider objectives of the national organisation, to ensure young LGBTI+ people are equal, safe, and valued in the diversity of their identities and experiences in Ireland.
- **Transgender Equality Network Ireland (TENI)** – The vision of TENI is to advance the rights and equality and improve the lives of trans people and their families in Ireland. Funding support from the HSE NOSP supports TENI’s training, awareness and mental health promotion activities nationwide. For example, workshops that are targeted at health professionals working in public and voluntary and community services, and TENI’s peer support groups for trans people and their families.

Noting other NGOs, community groups and initiatives may also receive funding at local level, for example from HSE Community Healthcare Organisations (CHOs). This is governed and administered at local level. In the context of suicide prevention, these arrangements are typically aligned with objectives and actions in local Connecting for Life Suicide Prevention Action Plans.

LGBT Ireland Report

In 2016, the HSE NOSP funded [The LGBT Ireland Report](#): a national study of the mental health and wellbeing of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people in Ireland (Belong To, GLEN and Trinity College Dublin).

In September 2022, the follow-up to that research – **Being LGBTQI+ in Ireland** – commenced. This new study will track the changes in the LGBTQI+ community since the previous research. The information for The LGBT Ireland Report was collected in 2014/15, before the same-sex marriage referendum and the introduction of the Gender Recognition Act in 2015. With this new body of research, we have the chance to see what has changed for the LGBTQI+ community since these major milestones.

This study is being conducted by Trinity College Dublin with Belong To. The study will be finalised, published and launched by the authors before the summer time.

It is co-funded by the HSE NOSP, HSE Social Inclusion, and the What Works and Dormant Accounts Fund, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) through Belong To.

I trust this information is useful for you. Please do revert if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Meehan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Mr John Meehan

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& Head of National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP)
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