



9th May 2024

Peadar Tóibín, TD
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ 20264/24

To ask the Minister for Health to provide a breakdown of the number of gambling addiction therapists and counsellors employed within the HSE; and the number of gambling addiction therapist and counselling services in receipt of HSE funding respectively, by county, for each of the past five years, in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

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.

Regarding the first part of this request of, 'a breakdown of the number of gambling addiction therapists and counsellors employed within the HSE,' the HSE does not employ gambling specific counsellors/therapists, however, individuals who present with co-morbid gambling problems may be treated in the existing Addiction services.

In 2023, the HSE received an allocation of €500,000 towards the provision of gambling specific services. Following a competitive tendering process, funding was allocated to four separate CHO areas to provide interventions around gambling (see Table 1). These services are now operational and will be evaluated in 2024 to determine effectiveness. A further allocation of funding was received in 2024 to provide interventions in those areas that had not received funding in 2023. There is currently a process ongoing in relation to the selection of projects and the issuing of funding.

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

Yours sincerely,

Prof Eamon Keenan
National Clinical Lead-Addiction Services
HSE National Social Inclusion Office



Table 1 – amount of ‘gambling addiction therapist and counselling services in receipt of HSE funding’

	Amount of Services					
CHO	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	0	1	1
3	0	0	0	0	1	1
4	0	0	0	0	1	1
5	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	0	0	0	0	3	3