



Deputy Pa Daly,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

By email to pa.daly@oireachtas.ie

8th October 2024

Ref: PQ 37941/24

To ask the Minister for Health the total funding for the HSE tobacco-free Ireland programme, broken down into the various services that are funded under the HSE tobacco-free Ireland programme, in the years of 2020, 2021, 2023, and to date in 2024, in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Daly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to your above referenced Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health.

The HSE Tobacco Free Ireland Programme (TFIP) works to coordinate and lead tobacco control activity across the health services to ensure implementation of the HSE actions contained within the Government *Tobacco Free Ireland* strategy. The Programme currently sits within HSE Health & Wellbeing which has recently moved under the governance of HSE Access & Integration.

The Programme itself is comprised of a small team that works to advocate for and subsequently provide strategic direction and quality assurance for tobacco control measures in the health service. The Tobacco Free Ireland Programme team pay costs were historically rolled up into the overall National Health and Wellbeing cost centre (until 2022). We are only able to report these costs individually from 2022 onwards, when the Programme had an individual cost centre established. Please see table below for Tobacco Free Ireland Programme pay costs.

| Year | TFIP Pay Costs |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| 2022 | 445,159 |
| 2023 | 562,582 |
| 2024 YTD | 352,987 ¹ |

¹ HSE Tobacco Free Ireland Programme pay costs Jan-Aug 2024

Please note, these pay costs are not included in the overall Smoking Cessation Staff Costs. Stop smoking service provision is not directly funded via the Programme (services fall under the remit of and are funded by the Regional Health Areas).

Funding for stop smoking medicines is provided through two channels; stop smoking medicines for medical card holders are administered via the PCRS and medicines for non-medical card holders are administered through stop smoking services via the Tobacco Free Ireland Programme. The QUIT Campaign is funded through HSE Health & Wellbeing and provided to HSE Communications. The QUIT Campaign aims to increase the demand for QUIT support services and National Quitline and medication costs subsequently vary and are demand led.

| | | |
|-------------|--|--------------------------|
| 2020 | <u>Tobacco Cessation Costs</u> | |
| | Smoking Cessation Medications (PCRS) | 9,365,383 |
| | Social Marketing (QUIT Campaign) | 1,688,719 |
| | National Quitline | 267,588 |
| | Smoking Cessation Staff Costs | 1,425,530 |
| | Quitmanager (Patient Management System) | 24,182 |
| | Slaintecare Integration Fund (2 x Maternity Stop Smoking Services) | 139,194 |
| | | <u>12,910,596</u> |
| 2021 | <u>Tobacco Cessation Costs</u> | |
| | Smoking Cessation Medications (PCRS) | 9,213,130 |
| | Social Marketing (QUIT Campaign) | 1,660,000 |
| | National Quitline | 289,813 |
| | Smoking Cessation Staff Costs | 1,784,635 |
| | Quitmanager (Patient Management System) | 24,182 |
| | We Can Quit Programme Delivery ² | 244,620 |
| | | <u>13,216,380</u> |
| 2022 | <u>Tobacco Cessation Costs</u> | |
| | Smoking Cessation Medications (PCRS) | 9,134,767 |
| | NRT/Stop Smoking Medications via Stop Smoking Services | 276,681 |
| | Social Marketing (QUIT Campaign) | 2,153,992 |
| | National Quitline | 377,388 |
| | Smoking Cessation Staff Costs | 3,179,160 ³ |
| | Quitmanager (Patient Management System) | 33,629 |
| | We Can Quit Programme Delivery | 599,604 |
| | | <u>15,755,221</u> |

² The *We Can Quit* Programme is a peer led, 12-week stop smoking group support programme for disadvantaged communities. This Programme was incorporated into the HSE for the first time in 2021 (previously run and funded by the Irish Cancer Society as a pilot).

³ The development of the Sláintecare Healthy Communities and Enhanced Community Care Chronic Disease Programmes saw investment in new stop smoking services in disadvantaged areas where smoking prevalence continues to be high. Staff costs are calculated using current WTE assigned to stop smoking services and salary midpoints.

| 2023 | Tobacco Cessation Costs | |
|-------------|--|------------------------|
| | Smoking Cessation Medications (PCRS) | 10,043,199 |
| | NRT/Stop Smoking Medications via Stop Smoking Services | 1,240,539 ⁴ |
| | Social Marketing (QUIT Campaign) | 1,721,315 |
| | National Quitline | 429,152 |
| | Smoking Cessation Staff Costs | 4,722,818 ⁵ |
| | Quitmanager (Patient Management System) | 37,257 |
| | We Can Quit Programme Delivery | 558,252 |
| | | 18,752,532 |

| YTD Tobacco Cessation Costs 2024 | | |
|---|--|------------------------|
| | Smoking Cessation Medications (PCRS) | 6,415,358 ⁶ |
| | NRT/Stop Smoking Medications via Stop Smoking Services | 1,713,075 ⁷ |
| | Social Marketing (QUIT Campaign) | 1,300,000 |
| | National Quitline | 349,616 ⁸ |
| | Smoking Cessation Staff Costs | 3,542,114 ⁹ |
| | We Can Quit Programme Delivery | 248,112 ¹⁰ |
| | | 13,568,275 |

The Department of Health-commissioned report *An Assessment of the Economic Cost of Smoking in Ireland*¹¹, published in 2016, estimated the annual cost to the health service as **€460 million**, and the total annual costs to the state are **€10.7 billion**. As per the Department of Health commissioned HIQA report, tobacco dependence treatments and associated campaigns are highly cost effective.

I hope this information is of assistance to you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Martina Blake, National Lead for the HSE Tobacco Free Ireland Programme



⁴ Spend on NRT products by Community based HSE Stop Smoking Services. Spend on NRT products by National Quit Line (introduced in November 2023) also included.

⁵ Further recruitment of remaining staff allocation through the Sláintecare Healthy Communities and ECC Programmes.

⁶ Stop Smoking medications provided to medical card holders via PCRS, figures available for Jan – end of July 2024.

⁷ Spend to date on NRT products by National Quit Line and community based HSE Stop Smoking Services (free NRT scheme).

⁸ The National Quitline is a contracted service. The cost provided here is Jan - Sept billing in 2024. No other billing available at present.

⁹ Stop Smoking Service staff costs to end September 2024.

¹⁰ 24 *We Can Quit* Courses delivered to date in 2024.

¹¹ ICF International, 2016. *An Assessment of the Economic Cost of Smoking in Ireland*. ICF International, London 2016