

Clinical Design & Innovation; Office of the Chief Clinical Officer Dr Steevens' Hospital, D08 W2A8 E: <u>clinicaldesign@hse.ie</u>

7th April, 2025

Deputy Mairéad Farrell, TD Dáil Éireann Leinster House Kildare Street Dublin 2

RE: 15625/25

To ask the Minister for Health if additional funding will be allocated for transgender services before the national clinical programme for gender healthcare is complete; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Farrell,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Clinical Advisor and Group Lead for Children and Young People (NCAGL C&YP) and the Gender Healthcare Programme on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

The HSE has initiated a new Gender Healthcare Programme to develop an updated clinical model of care for gender healthcare services for the Irish population. It is expected that this work will take approximately two years. The programme is committed to building a gender healthcare service in Ireland, based on experience and clinical evidence, respect, inclusiveness and compassion. Our goal is to develop a person-centred model of care which, when completed, will support the development of an integrated gender healthcare service that meets the needs of people in Ireland.

Funding for health service areas, including gender healthcare services, is considered as part of the overall annual health service planning process. The HSE's Regional Executive Officers (REOs) of the six Health Regions are accountable and responsible for the operational service delivery in their respective regions, including new service development submissions to inform estimates and the annual service planning process and operational plans for their region.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Anne Horgan General Manager