



**Ceann Seirbhíse, Cúraim Príomhúil**  
Cúram Sláinte Pobail Cabhán Dún na nGall  
Liatroim Muineachán, Sligeach  
An Clochar, Sráid an Choláiste, Béal Átha  
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Deputy Matt Carthy  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 19507/25**

***“To ask the Minister for Health the breakdown of staff directly employed by, and or funded by, north-west regional drug and alcohol task force; the estimated of pay costs per annum; and if she will make a statement on the matter.”***

Dear Deputy Carthy,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position for Integrated Healthcare Area West and Northwest.

The HSE can confirm that the North West Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force (NWRDATF) is a coordinating body established in 2003 as one of the key recommendations of the National Drugs Strategy 2001-2008. Using a partnership approach, it researches, develops and implements a coordinated, regionally appropriate response to alcohol substance misuse in Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim and West Cavan.

Central to the NWRDATF work is collaborative working under the key goals in the National Drug & Alcohol Strategy, ‘Reducing Harm Supporting Recovery, *A health led response to drug & alcohol use in Ireland 2017-2025*’. The current goals are:

- Promote and protect health & wellbeing
- Minimise the harm caused by the use and misuse of substances and promote rehabilitation and recovery
- Address the harms of drug markets and reduce access to drugs for harmful use
- Support participation of individuals, families and communities
- Develop sound and comprehensive evidence informed policies and actions.

Each of the ten Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Forces are coordinated by a HSE Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force Coordinator who is a permanent employee of the HSE, and they will usually be supported by a staff team. Task Force staff employment arrangements vary in each of the Task Forces, with some core staff also employed by the HSE, others by external non-governmental organisations and, as is the case in the NW Task Force, are Registered Charities to facilitate employment of staff and leasing of premises etc.



The NW Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Forces team is coordinated and supported by HSE permanent employees. The Task Force team is comprised of the following HSE staff grades:

- 1 WTE - HSE Regional DATF Coordinator (grade VII)
- 1 WTE – Community Development Workers (grade V)
- 1 WTE – Clerical Officer (grade III)

As a funded agency, the NWRDATF employs staff to coordinate and deliver several programmes on behalf of the HSE. The HSE are unable to share specific staff salaries of the funded agencies, but I can confirm the NWRDTAF was allocated €482,500 for 2024 to coordinate and deliver alcohol and drug support services across the Northwest region.

I trust that this is of assistance, but please do not hesitate to contact me if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely

**Mandy Doyle**

**Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Cúram Príomhúil**

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