



Seirbhisí, Meabhairshláinte,
Le Lár Tíre, An Lú, An Mhí,

Coimpléasc Naomh Bríd, Baile Átha Fhirdia,
Co Lú, A92 DRN0

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MLM MH 92/2025

William Aird T.D
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

25th February 2025

PQ ref 8402/25

“To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on interim funding that was promised to SOSAD Ireland in November 2024; and if she will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Aird,

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 outlined the position for Louth Meath Mental Health Services as follows.

1. Background:

SOSAD is not currently funded by HSE Louth Meath Mental Health Services (MHS). Please be advised of the last HSE funding provided to SOSAD in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Year	Organisation	Area	Section	Total Funding	Pt I
	Sosad Ireland Ltd	Health & Wellbeing (National)	S39 - GA	€0	<input type="checkbox"/>
2013	Sosad Ireland Ltd	DNE-Health Promotion Regional	S39 - GA	€20,000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2014	Sosad Ireland Ltd	DNE-Health Promotion Regional	S39 - GA	€25,000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2015	Sosad Ireland Ltd	Health & Wellbeing (National)	S39 - GA	€8,250	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

• New Application for Section 39 Funding

It is noted that SOSAD (Section 39 Organisation) applied to Louth Meath Mental Health Services (MHS) for Section 39 Funding in August 2023, and this was acknowledged in August 2023. Louth Meath MHS can confirm that no new mental health services were procured in 2023 and in 2024 as funding was allocated in line with HSE National Service Plans (NSP) 2023 and 2024, and no new mental health services were procured in 2024 as funding was allocated as per HSE Control Environment and NSP 2024. Louth Meath MHS can confirm that they did not cancel funding for SOSAD for 2023 or 2024 as it never formed part of NSP 2023, NSP 2024, and is not an approved/ agreed Service Level Agreement (SLA).

• HSE Control Environment:

As part of HSE Control Environment, there is to be a more standardised and controlled approach to funding/commissioning of services for the HSE. In 2025, there is a plan to develop a clear and streamlined process in relation to the inputs to be improved, on



what basis, the source of the funding, the activities to be undertaken and the results being output/outcomes that are expected.

- **Procurement Competitive Process:**

If a HSE procurement process for new/additional mental health services was agreed for 2025, there would need to be a competitive procurement process for application by eligible Section 38/39. This would be based on required HSE criteria, governance requirements, National Service Plan (legislation, access, budgets, quality/safety, workforce), research and best practice evidence (standards).

- **HSE Funding of Section 39 Organisation General information:**

Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are independent Section 39 organisations with a Board of Directors having responsibility to adhere to compliance with the law and support best practice in the governance, management and administration as set out by the Charities Regulator. Current allocated funding by the HSE to NGOs/Section 39 is restricted and provided for specific purposes and is agreed annually with each organisation in their Service Level Agreements (SLAs). All funding agreements are considered in the context of HSE criteria, Governance, National Service Plan (legislation, access, budgets, quality/ safety, workforce), research and best practice evidence (standards). Documentation related to applications for Section 39 funding is available [here](#) (this includes information on application and negotiation process, explanatory guides to documentation).

2. Key Developments and Updates

- **Cancelled Meeting:**

A meeting was planned for 6th January 2025 with SOSAD, HSE Louth Meath Integrated Healthcare Area Manager and Head of Service for HSE Midlands Louth Meath Mental Health Services). SOSAD requested to cancel meeting on 3rd January 2025.

- **Meeting on 14th January 2025:**

Rescheduled meeting took place on 14th January 2025 with SOSAD and HSE (Louth Meath Integrated Healthcare Area Manager and Head of Service for Midlands Louth Meath Mental Health Services). SOSAD were informed of the significant amount of corporate and clinical work they are required to do in 2025.

- **Correspondence from SOSAD dated 17th January 2025:**

SOSAD sent a letter to the Head of Service for HSE Midlands Louth Meath Mental Health Services stating they found the meeting on 14th January 2025 to be a very positive and informative meeting and they requested guidance on Corporate and Clinical Governance.

- **Correspondence from HSE Midlands Louth Meath Mental Health Services dated 20th January 2025:**

The Head of Service for HSE Midlands Louth Meath Mental Health Services sent a letter to SOSAD with the requested guidance on Corporate and Clinical Governance in line with HSE Policies and as outlined at the meeting on 14th January 2025.



3. Future Plans- SOSAD:

HSE Louth Meath Integrated Healthcare Area Manager and Head of Service for HSE Midlands Louth Meath Mental Health Services will continue to work with and support SOSAD in their preparation to meet the required corporate and clinical governance requirements in line with HSE policies and as outlined in correspondence and meeting with them.

I trust the above is in order. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours Sincerely

Mairead O'Neill
Head of Mental Health Services