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09th July 2025

Deputy Clarke,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 35381/25: To ask the Minister for Health the last time trauma informed training for sexual assault treatment unit staff was updated; if survivors were consulted in evaluating and improving the treatment experience; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 35380/25: To ask the Minister for Health the way in which follow-up services following treatment in sexual assault treatment units are monitored for consistency and survivor satisfaction; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 35379/25: To ask the Minister for Health if all regions have timely, equitable access to sexual assault treatment units; if she will provide a list of these units per County, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Clarke,

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.

There are six sexual assault treatment units (SATU) throughout the country and in 2024 there were a total of 1021 attendances across the units. The below chart shows the number of attendees per unit for the past five years. In 2024, 95 % (536) of people were seen within 3 hours of a request for a Forensic Clinical Examination, exceeding the KPI target of 90%. Further info on SATU attendances in 2024 (and past 5 years) are available through the recently published report of key service activity <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/5/sexhealth/sexual-assault-treatment-units-resources-for-healthcare-professionals/>.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<i>Dublin SATU - Rotunda</i>	277	309	427	451	394
<i>Cork SATU</i>	111	148	190	152	165
<i>Mullingar SATU</i>	101	120	148	124	133
<i>Galway</i>	89	100	107	137	113
<i>Donegal SATU</i>	78	101	125	117	128
<i>Waterford SATU</i>	78	81	75	81	88
<i>TOTAL:</i>	734	859	1072	1062	1021

All staff working in sexual assault treatment units (SATU) aim to provide trauma informed care, and this is integrated into staff induction and training as well as within training for specialist nurses (level 9 training, provided by RCSI). All staff also have access to a funded professional therapeutic space to provide staff support in terms of managing the experience of working in SATU.

Follow-up services are delivered according to national guidelines and regularly evaluated and modified according to evidence. The national guidelines can be found here:

<https://www2.healthservice.hse.ie/files/205/>. At every visit, every patient who attends is advised re HSE hosted feedback platform <https://www2.hse.ie/apps/satu.aspx>.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Davinia O'Donnell, General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme