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**Deputy Sorca Clarke,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.**

DATE: 17th July 2025

PQ number: 35468/25

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of dual diagnosis teams currently in operation, by health region; and the estimated cost of ensuring at least one operational team, per health region. – Sorca Clarke.

Dear Deputy Clarke,

Following the launch of the Model of Care for Dual Diagnosis in May 2023, there has been ongoing recruitment of Whole Time Equivalents (WTEs) for Adult and Adolescent Dual Diagnosis Teams.

The Adult Dual Diagnosis team based in Cork/RHA Southwest commenced services since mid-July 2024 and the Adult Dual Diagnosis team based in RHA Midwest started delivery services from mid-January 2025. They are both operational at present with ongoing recruitment for those teams nearly completed.

In addition, the enhancement of the existing Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) providing Addiction services (SASSY) is nearly complete with the recruitment of additional WTEs. This team will be one of the four Adolescent Dual Diagnosis Hub teams and will be based in North Dublin covering RHA Dublin North & North East. This service has started providing Dual Diagnosis services for the adolescents in their RHA region.

Furthermore, the recruitment of additional WTEs to enhance the existing CAMHS team providing Addiction services (YoDA) based in Tallaght is ongoing and is expected to formally commence delivering Dual Diagnosis services for the Adolescents in the RHA Dublin South/Midlands region from Q1 2026.

In addition, the recruitment of three Whole Time Equivalents (WTEs) for the third Adult Dual Diagnosis team based in Waterford is ongoing at present. Also, the recruitment of a Clinical Nurse Specialist for the Pilot Dual Diagnosis In-reach team for Cork Prison is expected to be completed later this year.

The complete cost of rolling out a fully operational team includes pay and non-pay costs, associated with each team. According to the Model of Care, each of these teams are recommended to have a staff allocation of 13 WTEs. The cost of 13 WTEs for an operational Dual Diagnosis team is around €1.4 million per annum at present, which will rise with the current agreement for public sector pay increase, over the next year. In addition to the



Adolescent Dual diagnosis hub teams, there will be around four spoke adolescent teams supporting the Adolescent services across Ireland. Each of these spoke teams will have around four WTEs each and will have pay related costs of around €450,000 per annum. It should be noted that these pay costings are based on mid-point salary scale for each of the grades and is inclusive of employers' PRSI.

The non-pay incurred when teams are established will include cost of buildings, utilities, IT supplies, training, travel etc. The non-pay element will be dependent on local resources, sharing resources with other services and other related determinants at the time of implementation. Hence, at present it is not possible to provide non-pay costings for a fully operational Dual Diagnosis team as it will vary across the country.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries on the above.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Amir Niazi,
National Clinical Advisor & Group Lead for Mental Health,
Health Service Executive.