



Office of the Assistant National Director
Access and Integration

HSE Mental Health Services,
St. Loman's Hospital,
Palmerstown, Dublin 20
D20HK69

Oifig an Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta Cúnta
Rochtain agus Comhtháthú: Seirbhísí
Meabhairshláinte FSS
Ospidéal Naomh Loman
Baile Phámar, Baile Átha Cliath 20
D20HK69

www.hse.ie
[@hselive](https://twitter.com/hselive)

e: PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie

Deputy Roderic O’Gorman
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

23rd July 2025

PQ Number: 40687/25

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if the entitlement to counselling for survivors and former residents of mother and baby institutions, via the National Counselling Service, as provided for in the Action Plan for Survivors and Former Residents of Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions, has been altered; and if she will make a statement on the matter. – Roderic O’Gorman

Dear Deputy O’Gorman,

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.

The HSE National Counselling Service (NCS) is a professional, confidential, counselling and psychotherapy service available free of charge in all HSE regional health areas. It was established in 2000 following the Taoiseach’s apology in 1999 on behalf of the State for abuse of children in residential institutions. In 2013 the NCS expanded to provide the Counselling in Primary Care (CIPC) service to adults who hold a GMS card who may be experiencing mild to moderate psychological difficulties.

Counselling to former residents of Mother and Baby Home Institutions

In 2021 the National Counselling Service began offering counselling to former residents of Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions as part of the Government agreed package of health and well-being measures.

As per the Action Plan for Survivors and Former Residents of Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions, Counselling with the NCS continues to be available to Former Residents of Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions on a priority basis.

There has been no change to the entitlement to counselling for Survivors and Former Residents of Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.



Yours sincerely,

Tony Mc Cusker
General Manager
National Mental Health Services