



13/08/2025

Deputy Rice
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 41312/25 To ask the Minister for Health the specific criteria used for the diagnosis of foetal alcohol spectrum disorder conditions; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy,

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.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is a group of disorders caused by prenatal alcohol exposure and are associated with a range of lifelong physical, mental, educational, social, and behavioural difficulties. Alcohol has an adverse effect on the developing brain, and on body organs. There is no safe amount of alcohol use during pregnancy.

Disability, primary care, mental health, and paediatric services are all involved in the provision of services for children and adults with FASD in Ireland. There are currently no standard diagnostic policies or guidelines for diagnosis or treatment.

If you require any further information or clarification, please do contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Aisling Sheehan
National Lead HSE Alcohol and Mental Health and Wellbeing Programmes, Health and Wellbeing