



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

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e:PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

8th April 2025

PQ Number: 12267/25

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the breakdown by year of the number of people affected by adoption and the mother and baby homes who have accessed the services of the National Counselling Services from 2020 to date, in tabular form. –Mary Lou McDonald

Dear Deputy McDonald,

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 regions of the country. 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 nationally 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. There is no waiting list for this service these clients are prioritised for immediate allocation to counselling if this is their choice.

The table below provides a breakdown by year of the number of former residents of mother and baby homes who have accessed the National Counselling Service from 2020 up to end of March 2025.



Table 1: No. of Former Residents Mother and Baby Homes 2020-2025

Year		Former Residents MBH Who accessed NCS
2020		27
2021		221
2022		89
2023		123
2024		119
2025 [up to 31.3.25]		10
Total @ 31.3.25		589

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Mc Cusker
General Manager
National Mental Health Services