



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

8th April 2025

PQ Number: 12270/25

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the breakdown, by year of the categories of funding provided, expenditure and any unspent funds in respect of the National Counselling Service 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. The NCS continues to provide counselling and psychotherapy to adults who experienced abuse as children [**CAPA service**].

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.

In some areas of the country, the NCS is also funded to provide counselling to those at risk of suicide or experiencing self harm. This service is known as the **Self-harm Intervention Programme [SHIP]** and is currently available in Counties Waterford, Wexford, Carlow, Kilkenny and Sligo.

Details of funding provided to the NCS, expenditure and unspent funds are outlined in Tables 1-5 below with a breakdown by category for the years 2020 to date.

Table 1: Categories of Funding to the NCS, Expenditure and Unspent Funds 2020				
Year	Type	Plan	Actual	YTD - Variance
2020	CAPA	8,334,108	8,431,505	97,397
2020	CIPC	8,238,352	8,294,805	56,453
2020	SHIP	372,804	422,668	49,864
Total		16,945,264	17,148,978	203,714



Table 2: Categories of Funding to the NCS, Expenditure and Unspent Funds 2021

Year	Type	Plan	Actual	YTD - Variance
2021	CAPA	8,934,172	9,318,836	384,664
2021	CIPC	8,744,530	7,654,681	796,513
2021	SHIP	372,804	276,089	(96,715)
Total		18,051,506	17,249,607	-801,899

Table 3: Categories of Funding to the NCS, Expenditure and Unspent Funds 2022

Year	Type	Plan	Actual	YTD - Variance
2022	CAPA	10,300,282	11,601,412	1,301,130
2022	CIPC	10,501,840	7,942,643	(2,559,197)
2022	SHIP	160,056	52,947	(107,109)
Total		20,962,178	19,597,002	-1,365,176

Table 4: Categories of Funding to the NCS, Expenditure and Unspent Funds 2023

Year	Type	Plan	Actual	YTD - Variance
2023	CAPA	13,867,686	14,426,819	620,321
2023	CIPC	10,213,812	8,677,361	(1,536,450)
2023	SHIP	90,000	80,637	(9,363)
Total		24,171,497	23,184,817	-986,680

Table 5: Categories of Funding to the NCS, Expenditure and Unspent Funds 2024

Year	Type	Plan	Actual	YTD - Variance
2024	CAPA	13,959,535	13,089,272	(870,263)
2024	CIPC	8,070,517	8,897,685	827,168
2024	SHIP	90,000	120,361	30,361
Total		22,120,052	22,107,318	-12,734

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Mc Cusker
General Manager
National Mental Health Services