



Office of the Assistant National Director
Access and Integration

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Oifig an Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta Cúnta
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Deputy Maria Sherlock.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

11th April 2025

PQ

13261/25

PQ Question:

To ask the Minister for Health the amount the health service has spent on the provision of private psychiatric care and mental illness in Ireland and the United Kingdom from 2018 to 2025, by year, and in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Marie Sherlock

Dear Deputy Sherlock

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.

Mental Health expenditure on private placements is growing year on year and is contributing to a significant element of overall Mental Health expenditure. These placements are for patients whose needs cannot currently be met within the existing statutory services necessitating placements with voluntary or private providers in Ireland or areas of specialist expertise in the UK e.g. secure settings for children. There has been a significant increase in numbers and expenditure year on year. These placements are often necessary for those with multi-axial disorders, severe eating disorders and children for whom the High Court determines their placement. Since 2015 negotiations of PfG development funding with DoH have included agreement of additional funding towards these costs. In addition to the direct funding for this increased cost, new models of care also supported through PFG funding including Specialist Rehabilitation Units and the Eating Disorder Clinical Programme are reducing the rate of growth by providing more appropriate responses to meeting the needs of this service user group. These models, in design and planning since 2016, have started to take effect and will continue as new services are implemented through funded posts and/or non-statutory providers.

The table below outlines the spend in private placements excluding National office service arrangements for Specialist Rehabilitation Unit beds (with Bloomfield & Highfield S39 org's) and CHO Saint John of God service arrangement with SJOG private hospital for outsourced bed capacity in CHO6.

Private Placements spend								
	2025 Spend- Jan YTD €'000	2024 Spend €'000	2023 Spend €'000	2022 Spend €'000	2021 Spend €'000	2020 Spend €'000	2019 Spend €'000	2018 Spend €'000
Total	7,441	79,657	74,050	68,782	59,809	55,333	48,258	46,033



In general the Treatment Abroad Scheme (TAS) provides for the funding of public patients referred to another

EU/EEA country, the UK or Switzerland for public healthcare which is not available in Ireland. In some instances particularly in respect of specialist mental health services it is not always possible to source the treatment in the public system abroad. In such circumstances and on a strictly case by case basis the HSE will consider approving costs of healthcare in the private healthcare sector abroad and only where the patient would have been approved via TAS funding if the treatment was available in the public healthcare system abroad.

Hereunder are the total costs of treatment abroad funded via the TAS budget from 2018 to 2025 Jan to Feb, inclusive. These costs relate to healthcare accessed in the UK as you will appreciate that language is a significant element of mental healthcare delivery.

Year	Private Treatment Costs
2025	€2,561,560.10
2024	€12,967,338.67
2023	€6,661,344.99
2022	€4,402,943.46
2021	€4,434,753.31
2020	€706,964.67
2019	€0.00
2018	€0.00
Total	€31,734,905.20

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

Tony McCusker
General Manager

Access and Integration; HSE Mental Health Services