



27 March 2025

First Second Name, TD
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ 13325/25

To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE addiction services under HSE social inclusion have adequate resources to manage behavioural addictions; and if she will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Clarke,

Your Parliamentary Question in relation to Behavioural Addictions has been passed onto the HSE Addiction Services for a response.

The HSE Addiction services have been funded mainly to provide treatment and care to people who present with Drug related problems. Some treatment initiatives have also been funded to treat people with Alcohol related problems. In relation to the treatment of Behavioural Disorders the HSE has received a limited amount of funding in 2023 and 2024 to provide pilot interventions for people with gambling and/or gaming related problems.

The initial funding of €500,000 in 2023 funded 4 pilot sites Galway, Limerick, Cork and North Dublin following a competitive tendering process overseen by the HSE National Social Inclusion Office (NSIO). In 2024, an additional €500,000 was provided to fund initiatives in those areas not covered by the original pilot sites in 2023.

Additionally, some of the funding was allocated to produce an evidence review on interventions, approaches and guidelines for gambling and gaming addiction. This evidence review is completed and will be launched Q2 2025.

A portion of the funding has gone towards funding a joint campaign by the HSE NSIO and the Gambling Regulatory Authority of Ireland (GRAI). The campaign will target parents with a focus on prevention and early intervention for young people.



This work is in line with the HSE National Service Plan for 2025 which requires the HSE to –

Supporting the ongoing pilot initiatives for those experiencing difficulties with gambling and gaming, and report on outcomes to ensure interventions provided are evidence-based and in line with the commissioned literature review. Support a gambling awareness campaign in conjunction with HSE Communications and Public Affairs

The issue of behavioural addictions is a new area and a growing concern. To effectively address the issues would require additional resources to scope need, and develop appropriate guidance and treatment services in the longer term. This would include the need for further research on other behavioural addictions.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Prof Eamon Keenan
National Clinical Lead-Addiction Services
HSE National Social Inclusion Office