



Deputy Paula Butterly.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

10th September 2025

PQ Number: 47784/25

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the steps she will take to ensure that mental health professionals in community mental health teams are equipped to deal with adults with autism; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Seán Canney

Dear Deputy Butterly

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 following training is available for HSE staff on how to deal with adults with Autism.

1. HSE Autism Awareness Training (HSeLand)

Suitable for all HSE staff including 3 modules.

- *Module 1: What is Autism?* – covers neurodiversity, lived experiences, and sensory processing differences
- *Module 2: Sensory Perception & Communication* – includes interviews with autistic individuals and families
- *Module 3: Providing Services* – focuses on creating autistic-friendly environments and reasonable accommodations
- **Certification:** Completion of all modules and final assessment earns a certificate.

2. Neurodiversity-Affirmative Training – The Adult Autism Practice

Suitable for psychologists, mental health professionals, primary care, disability services

- Half-day or full-day training (online or in-person), with optional reflective practice sessions
- **Content:**
 - Identification and support of autistic adults
 - Use of screening tools and documentation
 - Post-identification support strategies
- **Customisation:** Training can be tailored to organisational needs
- **Follow-up:** Includes post-training resource packs



3. NIIDS Autism Programme – Foundations in Autism

Accreditation: 28 CPD points; endorsed by Social Care Ireland & Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland

Format: 7-module online course

Modules include:

- Characteristics of autism
- Sensory processing
- Communication strategies
- Mental health and co-occurring conditions
- Lifespan perspectives
- Legal rights and advocacy
- Interactive Features: Case studies, quizzes, videos, and practical exercises.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

Tony McCusker
General Manager
Access and Integration; HSE Mental Health Services