



6<sup>th</sup> October, 2021

Deputy Jennifer Carroll MacNeill, TD  
Dáil Eireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2.

**Re PQ: 45337/21**

To ask the Minister for Health the breakdown in spending on the €2.1 million allocation in Budget 2021 to enhance access to health services for socially excluded groups with an emphasis on the €270,000 allocated to expand Traveller health units; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to your 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 below table identifies the four funded initiatives from the HSE National Service Plan 2021 that enhance access to health services for socially excluded groups.

<b>Funded Initiative</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022 Full year</b>
Improve access to healthcare services for the Roma & Migrant community: 2 Community Health Workers: Roma and Migrant health. Q2-Q4 funding	654,750	873,000
Expansion of Traveller health	274,449	548,898
Enhance healthcare services for asylum seekers and refugees living in line with White Paper Enhanced Model of Health Care	750,000	750,000
Initiatives for DSGBV and LGBTI	124,860	175,000
	1,804,059	2,346,898



The €270,000 allocated to expand Traveller Health Units supports the vision for a universal healthcare system for all, as outlined in Sláintecare 2018. In line with HSE action 75 of the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy the Health Service Executive is ensuring specific funding for the 9 Community Health Organisations (CHOs) to provide and expand healthcare provision via Traveller Health Units to support the local implementation of actions in the pending Traveller Health Action Plan.

This funding covers the employment of clinical Nurse Specialists in each of the 9 CHO areas. Each region will determine what nursing speciality they require. Current gaps on the ground range from Primary health care nurse co-coordinators/ Public Health Nurses/ Mental Health Nurses/Respiratory Nurses and Diabetic nurse specialist for Travellers. They will play a critical role in supporting health promotion particularly to address chronic diseases such as Respiratory; CVD; Diabetes; Mental Health and Addiction and address barriers to access to the health services.

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

Yours sincerely,



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Joseph Doyle  
National Lead, Social Inclusion