



17th February 2021

Deputy Thomas Gould
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

Re PQ: 6465 21

To ask the Minister for Health the estimated annual cost of needle exchanges by taskforce

Dear Deputy Gould,

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 table below outlines the estimated annual cost of providing needle exchange paraphernalia in the HSE Community Healthcare Organisations (CHOs) and through the National Pharmacy Needle Exchange Programme which operates in all CHO areas outside of Dublin.

The total cost of the National Pharmacy Needle Exchange shown below is inclusive of staff operating the programme and fees paid to Community Pharmacies engaged in the programme. There are currently 90 pharmacies outside the greater Dublin region providing needle exchange, a core component of the Harm Reduction approach to substance use in Ireland.

National Pharmacy Needle Exchange Programme	€657,000
CHO 1. Donegal, Sligo/Leitrim, West Cavan, Cavan/Monaghan	€0
CHO 2. Galway, Roscommon, Mayo.	€0
CHO 3. Clare, Limerick, North Tipperary, East Limerick	€242.00
CHO 4. Cork/Kerry	€1,166.00
CHO 5. . South Tipperary, Carlow/Kilkenny, Waterford, Wexford.	€2,610.00
CHO 6. Wicklow, Dun Laoghaire, Dublin South-East. & CHO 7. Kildare/West Wicklow, Dublin West, Dublin South City & Dublin South-West	€12,912.00
CHO 8. Laois/Offaly, Longford Westmeath, Louth and Meath	€11,400.00
CHO 9. Dublin North, Dublin North-Central, Dublin North-West	€4,290.00

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eamon Keenan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr. Eamon Keenan
National Clinical Lead – Addiction Services