



24th February 2021

Deputy Michael Healy-Rae, TD
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

Re PQ: 6478/21

To ask the Minister for Health the funding or assistance available for a person who has limited financial needs but needs to go to a treatment centre for alcohol; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Healy-Rae,

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:

Access to drug and alcohol treatment in HSE and HSE-funded services is free. There are different treatment options available depending on a person's needs. Services can be found on both Askaboutalcohol.ie and Drugs.ie. Most people are treated in a community setting.

For residential treatment, the HSE purchases a number of treatment episodes every year. The residential service may seek a contribution on a sliding scale from the client, but the episodes are purchased by the HSE on the principle that a person's inability to pay should not be a barrier to residential treatment. To access the treatment episodes, a referral must come through a designated HSE or HSE-funded service where a comprehensive assessment has been carried out, the outcome of which shows that the client is appropriate to residential treatment and there is a pre-treatment and post-treatment care plan agreed between the client, the referring agency and the residential service.

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

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Doyle
National Lead, Social Inclusion

