



15<sup>th</sup> February, 2022

Deputy Neale Richmond, TD  
Dáil Eireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2.

**Re PQ 3164/22**

To ask the Minister for Health if he will work to introduce specialised training for counsellors and therapists on sexual violence; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Richmond,

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:

In response to the Second National Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence Strategy published by the Department of Justice in 2016, the HSE National Social Inclusion office commissioned a review of current approaches and outcomes in respect of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence (DSGBV) questions used by all staff in different community and hospital contexts / environments and with specific target groups. A survey of acute hospitals and a qualitative study of staff in relevant settings is completed, while a qualitative study with survivors of DSGBV has been submitted for ethical approval.

The HSE will develop a National DSGBV Training Strategy for frontline HSE staff following consideration of the outcome from the review project, which is expected to include training on sexual violence for counsellors and therapists.

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

