



4th July 2022

Deputy Thomas Gould, TD
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

Re PQ: 33125/22

To ask the Minister for Health the annual average cost of providing a mobile needle exchange service; and the capital cost in establishing one.

Dear Deputy Gould,

I refer to your above Parliamentary Question which had been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

While providing a mobile needle exchange may vary across different geographical locations, the following table gives a breakdown of the costs of operating such a service. Capital costs included in the first year of operation include the purchase of a vehicle. Prior to establishment of any needle exchange service there is always an identification of need and consultation process with relevant stakeholders. For safety and accountability, two workers are required to run a service.

Staffing (including non-pay and PRSI)	2 x €47,000
Cost of Van (with inbuilt compartments)	€30,000
Servicing/CVT	€1,200
Insurance/Tax	Cover by HSE/State Claims
Fuel	€3,100
Stock	€10,000
Total	€138,300



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.

Prof Eamon Keenan
National Clinical Lead - Addiction Services