



24th July 2023

Deputy David Cullinane, TD
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ34352/23

To ask the Minister for Health the cost the waive assessment fees for addiction residential, rehabilitation and detox services.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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:

Where Tier 4 residential services charge an assessment fee, this is mostly done on a sliding scale depending on a person's ability to pay. One other point to consider is that for some services, the individual providing payment for the assessment is part an overall assessment of their motivation to change and engage in the treatment approach particularly when there is financial capacity.

There are a significant number of residential services that do not charge for an assessment and a number of services that charge different amounts depending on whether that person is referred by the HSE or is a private patient.

Information received from the service provider including whether they charge an assessment fee and what percentage of those assessed are actually charged was analysed and from that information a total of **€86,393** was estimated to be required for 2022 to cover the cost of this fee.

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

Yours sincerely,

Prof Eamon Keenan
National Clinical Lead-Addiction Services
HSE National Social Inclusion Office

