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13th June, 2025

Deputy Cullinane
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

Re: 28681/25

To ask the Minister for Health the cost to waive assessment fees for addiction services.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive have 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. Another important point to consider is that for some services, the individual providing payment for the assessment is part of an overall assessment of their motivation to change and engage in the treatment process particularly when there is financial capacity.

There are a significant number of residential services that do not charge at all 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 providers 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 €46, 371 was estimated to be required for 2024 to cover the cost of this waiving 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 Kennan
HSE Clinical Lead Addiction Services

