



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

National Social Inclusion Office
Primary Care Division
Health Service Executive
Mill Lane
Palmerstown
Dublin 20
01 620 1747
Fax 01 620 1626

14th April 2015

Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin, TD
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 13578/15

* To ask the Minister for Health if he will confirm that caseloads now being allocated to individual addiction counsellors working in the Dublin Area have risen significantly and in some cases individual Health Service Executive addiction counsellors are being allocated excess of 200 cases per individual addiction counsellor.

Dear Deputy Ó Caoláin,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position:

I am advised that no caseload in excess of 200 clients is held within either HSE Addiction Service covering the Dublin Region.

Within the addiction services in North Dublin City and County (Community Health Organisation Area 9) each HSE addiction counsellor manages an active caseload of 50 individuals before a waiting list is applied. Average current counselling caseloads within this service are dependent on where the clinic is situated. For example, in the City Centre there are currently 1.5 counsellors down 3.5 as the original number of counsellors serving the city clinic was 5. This is also true of Domville House in Ballymun. There is a need to maintain current staffing levels though in order to proceed with a positive change in service provision advocated by the Dublin North City and County external review.

Within the addiction services covering Community Health Organisation Areas 6 and 7 each HSE addiction counsellor manages on average an active caseload of between 25 - 30 individuals. There are currently three counselling vacancies within this service which have been offered to those on the relevant HSE National Recruitment Service panel. All on the panel declined the offer of work in the Dublin area. A bespoke Dublin competition has been requested. An update on this competition is awaited. Accordingly no new counsellors have been employed in the past year.

In addition the HSE Addiction Services work in partnership with the Local and Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Forces, who provide funding for additional community based counselling services.

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, appearing to read 'Joseph Doyle'.

Joseph Doyle
National Planning Specialist
Social Inclusion