24th July, 2017

Deputy Brendan Howlin, TD
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ 32667/17
* To ask the Minister for Health the number of residential detox and rehabilitation beds available; his plans to implement the recommendations of the 2007 Health Service Executive report on residential treatment; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Howlin,

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:

The Report of the HSE Working Group on Residential Treatment & Rehabilitation (Substance Abuse) provided a detailed analysis and overview of known residential treatment services at the time (2007) and advised on the future residential requirements of those affected by drug and alcohol use. The report calculated a need for 887 residential rehabilitation beds, of which between 14 and 37 beds being required for a separate adolescent service(s).

The number of residential beds has increased significantly since 2007, largely due to the increased provision of beds in community based residential facilities. The most recent figures available (including private provision) estimate current provision at 787 residential beds, comprising 23 inpatient unit detoxification beds, 117 community-based residential detoxification beds, 4 adolescent residential detoxification beds, 625 residential rehabilitation beds and 18 adolescent residential rehabilitation beds.

In 2015 the HSE received €1.4m per annum to increase the residential capacity within the community and voluntary sector. An additional €.75m has been provided in 2017 to provide additional detoxification and rehabilitation episodes to HSE referred clients.
I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Doyle
National Planning Specialist