



18th December 2023

Fergus O'Dowd, TD
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ 54821/23

To ask the Minister for Health as part of Government's response to drug intimidation, if the full-time recommended role for the drug-related intimidation and violence engagement programme has been progressed, and if it has been affected by the recent moratorium announced within the Health Service; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O'Dowd,

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.

DRIVE (Drug Related Intimidation & Violence Engagement) is an interagency project with systems and structures to respond to drug related intimidation and associated violence (DRIV) in Ireland. The project is funded by the Department of Health. The project is overseen by the DRIVE Oversight Committee which has members from the Garda National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau, the Regional and Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force Coordinators Networks in Ireland, HSE National Addiction Advisory Governance Group, National Voluntary Drug & Alcohol Sector and Probation Service.

The HSE has undertaken a procurement process which is near completion. It has been confirmed that the DRIVE Lead will be hosted via a Section 39 organisation and therefore is not impacted by the HSE recruitment pause.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Doyle
National Lead, Social Inclusion

