



14th December 2023

Ivana Bacik, TD
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ 51193/23

To ask the Minister for Health his views on the need for promotion among healthcare staff of impartial information on the health effects of gambling, separate to that provided by organisations which receive funding from the gambling sector.

Dear Deputy Bacik,

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.

By way of background, the HSE Addiction Services provide treatment for gambling, and have a strategic and operational role in the bespoke services required, and we are currently piloting initiatives in four treatment sites and intend to expand this initiative in 2024.

Considering the above, and after seeking guidance from the Department of Health, we have been requested to provide general information regarding HSE Drugs & Alcohol Helplines. Please find information noted below:

The HSE Drugs & Alcohol Helpline is a confidential service which has both a freephone Helpline (1800 459 459) and an email support service (helpline@hse.ie).

The HSE Drugs & Alcohol Helpline provides support, information, guidance and referral to anyone with a question or concern related to drug and alcohol use and/or HIV and sexual health. The service is non-judgemental and offers space to talk about your situation, to explore some options and to consider your needs. During calls/ emails, staff refer to a database of over 400 services nationwide. Opening hours are Monday to Friday, 9.30am and 5.30pm.

Yours sincerely,

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

