



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Cúnta Náisiúnta  
Clár Cúraim Pobail Feabhsaithe &  
Conarthaí Príomhchúraim  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte

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**Deputy Darren O' Rourke**  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2.

**15<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

**PQ 18737/24**

**To ask the Minister for Health if he is aware of the work of an organisation to provide heart and stroke services; if he has plans to work with the foundation to expand services; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy O Rourke,

I refer to your parliamentary question, which was passed to the HSE for response.

The HSE (Primary Care and Health & Wellbeing) work with the Irish Heart Foundation (IHF) & other patient support groups on a number of initiatives on an ongoing basis, as well as on more detailed and targeted projects such as the High Risk Prevention Behaviour Change Programme in 2024.

Thanks to continued investment in Health Services, Ireland has seen a decline in the number of deaths from cardiovascular disease (CVD). Since 2012, the mortality rate from heart disease has been reduced by 38%, mortality from stroke has been reduced by 48%. However, CVD remains a significant challenge claiming 9,000 lives annually.

The Government acknowledges the vital support, education, and advocacy offered by the IHF and other patient support groups. Many patient services are embedded in policy, including the National Stroke Strategy 2022-2027 for which the government has provided over €7m to date. Partnerships and collaboration are and will continue to be, enablers of our commitment to promoting the cardiovascular health of our nation.

In 2022 and 2023, the HSE's National Heart Programme, supported through the Enhanced Community Care Programme, sponsored two CVD risk prevention projects with the IHF. The State, via the HSE, provides funding to the IHF, and other cardiovascular support agencies of approximately €530,000 through Service Level Agreements and Grant Aid Agreements of which €380,000 was allocated to IHF in 2024.

In 2024, the HSE allocated an additional once-off sum of €400,000 to the IHF for a High-Risk CVD Prevention Programme which has demonstrated its effectiveness by enhancing healthcare provision, clinical outcomes, and health behaviors in patients living in deprived communities. The HSE will work with these and other organisations in the context of the 2025 estimates and funding cycle.



I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Crowley', written over a light blue horizontal line.

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**Geraldine Crowley,  
Assistant National Director,  
Enhanced Community Care Programme &  
Primary Care Contracts**