



28<sup>th</sup> February, 2024

Deputy Róisín Shortall, TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**PQ 5846/24**

**To ask the Minister for Health to provide further details in relation to the Budget 2024 allocation to the transgender model of care; the status of plans to develop an updated model of care and appoint a clinical lead for transgender services; the timeline he is working towards; to confirm if the new model will adhere to the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) standards; and if he will make a statement on the matter**

Dear Deputy Shortall,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Clinical Advisor and Group Lead for Children and Young People (NCAGL C&YP) on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

Planning has commenced within the HSE to set up a Clinical Programme for Gender Healthcare for the purpose of designing a Model of Care for Gender Healthcare and an implementation plan for delivery of this model of care.

The current plan is that a Clinical Lead for the HSE's Clinical Programme for Gender Healthcare will be supported by a core interdisciplinary team including a Nurse Lead, a Health and Social Care Profession (HSCP) Lead and a Project Manager.

Investment towards the establishment of this interdisciplinary team for the HSE's Clinical Programme for Gender Healthcare commenced in 2024. The HSE received non-pay funding of an initial €0.1M in the 2024 Letter of Determination (LOD) to initiate the establishment of a Clinical Programme for Gender Healthcare.

In accordance with usual custom, a Clinical Lead post was created to lead the design of the new model of care. Advertising and appointment for the Clinical Lead was through the HSE's National Recruitment Service (NRS), who managed the selection process from application to appointment. Interviews have taken place and the appointment process has begun for the Clinical Lead.

A stepped approach will be taken in developing this new model of care, to include establishment of a Clinical Advisory Group, review of best practice evidence-base (national and international) and a public consultation/stakeholder engagement process.

As part of this HSE standardised approach for developing a new model of care, international practice and guidance will be studied, which will include examination of the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) Standards. The HSE's Clinical Programme for Gender Healthcare will also be supported and underpinned by a public health and population health approach.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

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**Anne Horgan**  
General Manager

