



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta
Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte

Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin, Baile Phámar,
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Deputy Mark Ward.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

18th April 2024

PQ Number: 8991/24

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the cost of the counselling in primary care service, by year since 2019; the average cost of delivering a session inclusive of staffing and administration costs in the same period; the funding allocated to the counselling in primary care service per year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Mark Ward

Dear Deputy Ward,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the 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 HSE National Counselling Service established Counselling in Primary Care (CIPC) in July 2013 as a mental health initiative to provide counselling to adults experiencing mild to moderate psychological difficulties who present in the primary care setting. CIPC receives an average of 19,000 referrals per annum. More than 170,000 people have been referred to CIPC since it was established with an average of 2,060 clients attending at any time.

All adults in receipt of a medical card are currently eligible for the service. Access is by referral from the client's GP or a member of the Primary Care Team. CIPC is available in each community health area and is accessible from over 240 locations, mainly primary care centers, situated throughout Ireland.

Costing details for provision of the CIPC service are outlined in the tables below.

Table 1 details the average cost per counselling session between 2019 and 2023. It was not possible to calculate admin and additional staffing. The cost outlined in the table below is the cost per counselling hour.

Table 2 details the cost of CIPC for each year from 2019-2023.

Table 3 provides detail on the funding allocated to CIPC per year.



Table 1: Cost per Session

Average Cost per Counselling Session	
Year	€
2019	76.88
2020	76.88
2021	76.88
2022	76.88
2023	79.46

Table 2: CIPC Cost x Year 2019-2023

CIPC Costs	
Year	€
2019	7,536,429
2020	6,462,559
2021	6,661,798
2022	6,081,355
2023	7,256,125

Table 3: Funding allocated to CIPC per year

Year	€
2019	7,249,866
2020	6,768,085
2021	7,644,929
2022	6,176,427
2023	8,913,861

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Mc Cusker
General Manager
National Mental Health Services