



**Leas Stiúirthóir Náisiúnta: Pleanáil Athraithe agus Seachadadh
Seirbhísí Míchumais agus Meabhairshláinte.**

**Assistant National Director: Change Planning and Delivery
Disability and Mental Health Services.**

HSE | Block D,
Parkgate Business Centre,
Parkgate Street, Dublin D08 YFF1.

T: 01 6352574
Suíomh Gréasáin/Website: <http://www.hse.ie>

26th January 2024

Deputy Pauline Tully,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: pauline.tully@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Tully,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary question, which was submitted to my department for response.

PQ: 57300/23

To ask the Minister for Health if, in line with Action 87 of the Autism Committee's Final Report, he has plans to introduce mandatory autism training for all health and social care workers in the Health Service Executive and in Section 38 and Section 39 organisations who provide services on behalf of the Health Service Executive; and the estimated first- and full-year cost, respectively, of implementing this proposal.

HSE Response:

The HSE has commenced implementation of a Service Improvement Programme for the Autistic Community based on the recommendations of the 'Review of the Irish Health Services for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder' and consists of senior strategic, operational and clinical decision makers, as well as independent professional / academic support. Importantly, the Programme Board has the representation of persons with lived experience of Autism participating as equal members of this important collaborative team effort.

The Programme Board is tasked with leading out on an agreed set of priorities that will have greatest impact in terms of shaping how services can be delivered to people with Autism and in creating greater awareness of Autism through supporting communities to promote inclusion and foster positive attitudes.

The two primary priorities are (1) The implementation of a tiered model of assessment as recommended in the ASD Review Report, led by the Assessment and Pathways Working Group, and (2) The implementation of a Programme of Awareness Raising and Communications, led by the Awareness and Communications Working Group.



In relation to the question asked in PQ: 57300/23, the HSE Service Improvement Programme for the Autistic Community, have identified an extensive autism training programme for roll out to all health and social care workers in the HSE and in Section 38 and 39 agencies. Negotiations are at an advanced stage with the joint owners of this training for permission to adapt and deliver this training specific to an Irish context. Costings will be negotiated as part of the current negotiations.

Mise le meas,



**Mr Brian J Higgins,
Assistant National Director,
Change Planning and Delivery,
Disability and Mental Health Services**