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PQ 27921/24

To ask the Minister for Health if an organisation (details supplied) will be provided with Section 39 funding; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [SOSAD Ireland provide much-needed mental health services across large parts of the State]

Dear Deputy,

The HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP) has been requested to respond to your question above.

National Office

SOSAD Ireland has not applied for funding to this Office, and is not presently in receipt of funding from this Office, or the HSE on a national basis. A considerable number of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) receive funding for providing supports for the general population, mental health promotion, self-help and information services, encompassing societal wellbeing, resilience and safety. More formalised people-to-people services – for those with more mild to moderate difficulties – are also delivered by HSE-funded agencies, and within GP and Primary Care services.

Presently the HSE NOSP funds 22 national NGOs, all providing support at different levels or to specific, targeted groups. Funding is in alignment with goals, objectives and actions in [Connecting for Life, Ireland's National Strategy to Reduce Suicide](#).

HSE Mental Health also funds 11 NGOs on a national basis and in alignment with [Sharing the Vision – A Mental health Policy for Everyone](#).

- More information on nationally funded NGOs is available in HSE NOSP Annual Reports, available [here](#).

HSE Mental Health Services, Community Health Organisation Midlands Louth Meath

An application from SOSAD Ireland for funding was received by Louth Meath Mental Health Services (LMMHS) in early August 2023. This application was acknowledged at that time and SOSAD were advised that they would have a response in due course following consideration and review of same.

Currently, the SOSAD service proposal is still under review by LMMHS. A review process (as below) is underway to determine if this SOSAD proposal is deemed suitable and necessary for LM MHS. As the Estimates process is a competitive process – based on clinical need and relevance to service plan – the submission may or may not progress to funding. This SOSAD application, if deemed suitable and necessary, may then be included for consideration of inclusion in the Integrated Health Areas (IHA) Estimates 2024 following the completion of the review process. The review process includes the following:

- Expert advice with regard to the services proposed to be offered.
- Needs assessment of the service proposal.
- Clinical impact of the service proposal including risk management.
- Corporate and clinical governance structure compliance and evidence if same

General information

Funded NGOs are independent Section 39 organisations with a Board of Directors having responsibility to adhere to compliance with the law and support best practice in the governance, management and administration as set out by the Charities Regulator.

Funding provided by the HSE is restricted and provided for specific purposes, agreed annually with each organisation, in Service Level Agreements (SLAs). All funding agreements are considered in the context of relevant HSE criteria and governance requirements, and budgets. Understanding particular service needs and demands – as informed by services experiences, research, evidence, standards and best practice – is also important in assessing funding applications or making allocations.

Documentation related to applications for Section 39 funding is available [here](#). This page includes information on the application and negotiation process, explanatory guides to documentation, standard templates and forms, National Service Plan Performance Indicators, and policies, procedures, guidelines and legislation documents.

I trust this information is useful for you. Please do revert if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely,



Mr John Meehan

HSE Assistant National Director, Mental Health Planning & Head of National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP)

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