



Oifig an Stiúrtóra Náisiúnta Cúnta
Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte

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

08th August 2024

PQ Number: 30365/24

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the all-in cost of 400 WTE counsellors with the national counselling service; the number of other grade posts required to support this expansion on a pro-rata basis; and the cost of these posts. –David Cullinane

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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.

Established in 2000 the National Counselling Service provides a range of counselling services across the HSE's six Regional Health Areas including:

- Counselling in Primary Care (CIPC)
- Counselling and Psychotherapy for Adults who experienced abuse in childhood
- Counselling and Psychotherapy for Former Residents of Mother and Baby Homes
- Counselling for women and their families impacted by the Cervical Check crisis
- Counselling for families impacted by the Star Dust inquest

The costing for provision of 400 WTE counsellor/therapist posts with the HSE National Counselling Service is detailed in the table below along with the costings for other grades to support this expansion.

Other posts required to support expansion:

- Senior Counsellor/Therapists to ensure clinical governance 1 Senior Counsellor/therapist per 4 WTE Counsellor/therapists (100)
- Business support for efficient service provision -1 Grade IV per 10 clinical staff (40) and 1 Grade VI per 5 grade IV staff (8)



Costings for NCS Service Expansion	No.	Costing [including ER PRSI]
WTE Counsellor/Therapist	400	36,028,569
WTE Senior Counsellor/Therapist	100	10,738,856
WTE Grade VI	8	2,245,085
WTE Grade IV	40	612,776
Total full year cost		49,865,397

https://healthservice.hse.ie/documents/4325/FINAL_1_January_2024_Pay_Scales_v3.pdf

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Mc Cusker
General Manager
National Mental Health Services