



Deputy David Cullinane,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

27<sup>th</sup> August 2024

**PQ Number: 30366/24**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost to fully fund the national clinical programme for eating disorders; and the number of community and acute teams and posts required - David Cullinane**

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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.

In January 2018, the HSE published a National Model of Care for Eating Disorders (MOC) in partnership with College of Psychiatrists' of Ireland and Bodywhys. In the absence of a pre-existing dedicated eating disorder infrastructure or strategy, this Model of Care document has been developed in order to guide the provision of high quality, accessible and value for money eating disorder services in Ireland. Key recommendations include:

- The development of a national network of dedicated eating disorder teams embedded within the mental health service
- A stepped model of outpatient, day patient and inpatient care provision based on clinical need
- The development of a skilled, trained workforce

The NCPED aims to establish an ED network (8 adult teams and 8 CAMHS teams) in accordance with the agreed Model of Care 2018. These consultant led multidisciplinary teams provide specialist eating disorder assessment and treatment in the community and are the foundations of delivering quality eating disorder care across the stepped model of care. Today (July 2024) there are 11 NCPED teams at various stages of development and resourcing across the HSE 5 CAMHS and 6 Adult teams.

**Eating Disorders Teams:** Based on current Model of Care an adult Eating Disorders Team serving a population of 500,000 staffing costs are 1.5M for a new team (14.4WTEs). An additional 4 MDT community specialist eating disorders teams are required with up to 15 WTEs per team at a cost of €6M. To staff the existing 11 eating disorders teams to the required levels for population served as outlined in MOC 38WTEs are required and it is estimated will cost €3M.

**Premises:** In addition each new team will require a suitable premises to be based in and deliver outpatient and day programmes. This cost will vary across the HSE regions but is a significant rent each year. Ring fenced funding needs to be allocated for this.

**Training and education:** Each new team and all existing teams require access to a range of training in evidence based interventions, educational seminar days and supervision to maintain a skilled workforce. A ring fenced budget is required to ensure rolling training and education programme is delivered.

**Online data capture and analysis tools:** In order to measure and track the impact of the interventions on outcome for people and families we need access to modern online data tools.

**Inpatient beds:** It is anticipated in the current Model of Care that 23 additional adult eating disorders teams are required. This is a significant capital programme that will need phased funding yearly for the coming years. This bed requirement is part of wider Mental Health HSE capital programme.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



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**Dr Amir Niazi**  
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**Clinical Design and Innovation**  
**Health Service Executive**