



HSE Tobacco Free Ireland Programme  
HSE Health and Wellbeing  
Floor 2, Oak House  
Millennium Park  
Naas  
Co Kildare  
[Martina.blake1@hse.ie](mailto:Martina.blake1@hse.ie)  
[TFI@hse.ie](mailto:TFI@hse.ie)

Deputy John Brady  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

By email to [john.brady@oireachtas.ie](mailto:john.brady@oireachtas.ie)

7<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Ref: PQ 31725/24

**To ask the Minister for Health the absolute number of people who completed the quit smoking cessation programme in each of the years 2011 to 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Brady,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to your above referenced Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health. The question concerned was referred to Health and Wellbeing, HSE, for review and direct response as the work of the Tobacco Free Ireland Programme (TFIP) is part of that function.

Our response to the PQ referenced above is set out below.

Stop smoking services are delivered through various channels in Ireland. One to one intensive stop smoking support is provided through community based stop smoking clinics, hospital based stop smoking clinics, stop smoking support groups and the national QUIT Line phone service. Nationally, over 19,000 people availed of this type of intensive support to stop smoking in 2023. This was the highest number of clients in a given year to date to attend HSE stop smoking services and is a reflection of investment in stop smoking services in 2022 through the Sláintecare Healthy Communities and Enhanced Community Care programmes.

In 2017, the HSE procured, developed and introduced a new electronic patient management system (QUITmanager) for stop smoking services. Therefore, reliable national data is only available from 2018 onwards. Prior to this, stop smoking records were collated on either paper or using MS Excel with varying data definitions across the country. The introduction of QUITmanager standardised data definitions and recording across HSE stop smoking services from 2018 onwards.

Below is a breakdown of how clients have progressed through the HSE stop smoking services standard treatment programme and the subsequent numbers of clients who were quit at key milestones during the programme. The programme extends to 52-weeks post quit date but clients can decide to cease engagement at any stage (generally due to relapse).

### Data Definitions

**A Data** - No. smokers who received face-to-face or telephone support from a cessation counsellor.

**B Data** - No. smokers on cessation programmes (i.e. who set a quit date).

**C Data** - No. smokers on cessation programmes who remained quit at 4 weeks post quit date.

**D Data** - No. smokers on cessation programmes who remained quit at 12 weeks post quit date.

**E Data** - No. smokers on cessation programmes who remained quit at 12 months post quit date.

<u>Year</u>	<u>A Data</u>	<u>B Data</u>	<u>C Data</u>	<u>D Data</u>	<u>E Data</u>
2018	10,608	4,666	2,290	1,589	708
2019	9,235	4,967	2,377	1,544	889
2020	7,145	4,080	2,143	1,530	952
2021	8,601	4,711	2,645	1,832	1,113
2022	12,477	7,022	3,533	2,545	1,497
2023	19,313	11,380	6,570	4,661	1,419*

\*Full data for the no. of clients who were quit at 12 months (E Data) in 2023 will not be available until January 2025 (clients whose quit attempt began in July-December will not yet be 12 months quit).

From the data above, approximately 15% of clients remained quit at 12 months in 2018 compared to 21% in 2022 (the last full year of data available).

I hope this information is of assistance to you. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.



---

**Martina Blake**

National Lead, HSE Tobacco Free Ireland Programme