



HSE Tobacco Free Ireland Programme
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Deputy John Brady
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By email to john.brady@oireachtas.ie

7th August 2024

Ref: PQ 31726/24

To ask the Minister for Health the percentage difference in demand for 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.

The HSE also offers online stop smoking support services in the form of an online QUIT Plan that a client can sign up for via www.quit.ie. The plan can be personalised to offer daily support messages via email or SMS and includes features such as tips for coping with withdrawals and a savings calculator.

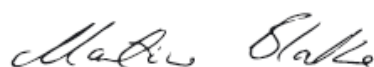
The HSE National Service Plan has included KPIs that demonstrate demand for stop smoking services since 2013, therefore we can only provide standardised data from 2013 onwards.

- No. of smokers who received face to face or telephone intensive cessation support from a cessation counsellor.
- No. of smokers who are receiving online cessation support services.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Intensive Cessation Support</u>	<u>% difference from previous year</u>
2013	10,537	N/A
2014	9,208	-13.5%
2015	12,127	+27.4%
2016	11,938	-1.6%
2017	12,001	+0.5%
2018	10,608	-12.3%
2019	9,235	-13.8%
2020 ¹	7,145	-25.5%
2021	8,601	+18.5%
2022	12,477	+36.8%
2023	19,313	+42.9%

<u>Year</u>	<u>Online Support</u>	<u>% difference from previous year</u>
2013	6,765	N/A
2014	7,469	+9.9%
2015	10,867	+37%
2016	17,166	+45%
2017	16,280	-5.3%
2018 ²	8,951	-58%
2019	6,490	-31.9%
2020	7,755	+17.8%
2021	6,420	-18.8%
2022	6,316	-1.6%
2023	7,636	+18.9%

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

¹ Stop Smoking Services were impacted by COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021 due to staff redeployment and temporary suspension of face to face services.

² The KPI definition was changed in 2018 – only online QUIT Plans that are email verified (where a user confirms their account via an email link) are now counted in the KPI total. This measure was implemented to ensure we are counting meaningful engagements with the online plan.