



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

An Oifig Náisiúnta don Chuimsiú  
Sóisialta  
Rannóg Cúram Príomhúil  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse  
Sláinte  
Lána an Mhuilinn  
Baile Phámar  
Baile Átha Cliath 20

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National Social Inclusion Office  
Primary Care Division  
Health Service Executive  
Mill Lane  
Palmerstown  
Dublin 20

27<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Deputy Pat Buckley, TD  
Dáil Eireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**PQ 17710/17**

\* To ask the Minister for Health the number of addiction counsellors working in primary care in each of the years 2008 to 2016 and to date in 2017; and the annual expense incurred by these positions on the exchequer..

Dear Deputy Buckley,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to your above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

People who present for addiction treatment are offered a range of interventions namely Initial Assessment, Comprehensive Assessment, Minnesota Programme, Brief Intervention, Individual Counselling, self-help, peer-support etc. or a combination of these. The delivery of these services is based on the Four Tier Model of treatment intervention and services are designed to respond to the individual's specific identified needs.

Interagency working between the HSE, Drug Task Forces and multiple other community, statutory and voluntary agencies form the basis of this delivery as the target is to provide services where possible in a community environment. Counselling and rehabilitation services provide care to those presenting with an addiction through one to one counselling and onward referral to other statutory and voluntary groups where appropriate. The HSE also provides funding to a number of voluntary service providers who treat drug and alcohol addictions.

The financial system within the HSE is designed to support the delivery of integrated services at local level and does not currently support reporting by care group other than at a national level. Therefore it is not possible to identify all of the elements of the funding specifically providing counselling interventions.

Further, in some parts of the country alcohol services are provided within social inclusion as part of drug and alcohol (addiction) services and in others they are distinct and provided under Mental

Health with elements of Alcohol Harm Prevention within Health Promotion and Improvement. It should be noted that in addition to these services, other areas of the HSE provide services to clients with addiction problems including Acute Hospital Services and Emergency Departments, Primary Care Services and General Practitioners providing front line services for these clients.

Notwithstanding the above, a recent exercise has been carried out by The National Social Inclusion Office within the HSE Addiction Services in Social Inclusion/ Primary Care. The table below sets out the Whole Time Equivalent HSE Addiction Service Counsellors attributed to the HSE Addiction Services for three points in time 2006, 2015 and 2017 and is as follows:

<i>Area operated From</i>	<i>Geographical Area covered.</i>	<i>No. of Counsellors</i>		
		<b>2006</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2017</b>
Dublin South West/Kildare/ West Wicklow, Dun-Laoghaire & Bray, Arklow & Wicklow	Dublin South West /Kildare/ Wicklow. East Coast Area	36	24	23.3
Dublin North-East	Louth/Meath/Cavan-Monaghan	13	11.5	7
Dublin North-East	Dublin North/North East	30	20	16.6
West (Galway)	Galway City & County/Roscommon/Mayo	9	9	8.4
Mid-West	Limerick/Clare/ North Tipperary	5	4	2
North West	Sligo/Leitrim/Sth Donegal/West Cavan	6	6	5.4*
Arbour House & Church St. Cork	Cork City & County	14	12.5	33.9
Edward Court, Tralee	Co. Kerry	4	3	
New Ross, Kilkenny, Clonmel	Waterford, Wexford, Kilkenny, South Tipperary	18	14	10.4
Letterkenny/ Dunloe/ Stranolar	Donegal	9	6	5*
Portlaoise	Laois/Offaly	5	5	5
Long/Mull & Athlone	Longford/Westmeath	6	6	5
National Drug Treatment Centre	National	N/a	1.8	3.8
<b>Total</b>		<b>155</b>	<b>122.8</b>	<b>125.8</b>

\* Note: These Addiction Service Counsellors are aligned to HSE Mental Health

The mid-ranges of the HSE Counsellors scales are currently €45,702 - €58,288. This does not include other employer costs.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Doyle', written in a cursive style.

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Joseph Doyle  
National Planning Specialist