



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

National Social Inclusion Office  
Primary Care Division  
Health Service Executive  
Mill Lane  
Palmerstown  
Dublin 20  
01 620 1747  
Fax 01 620 1626

10<sup>th</sup> November, 2014

Deputy Thomas P. Broughan, TD  
Dail Eireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 40009/14**

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons in receipt of methadone as opioid substitute treatment in the years 2012, 2013 and to date in 2014; and the cost to the Exchequer of providing this treatment for each of those years.

Dear Deputy Broughan,

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.

According to information provided by the HSE's Central Treatment List, as of the end of September 2014 there were a total of 9,301 patients receiving Methadone treatment, 9,116 patients as of the end of December 2013 and 8923 patients as of the end of December 2012. These figures do not include patients receiving methadone maintenance within the Prison system.

Of the total expenditure attributed to Addiction Services within Social Inclusion it is not possible to identify all of the elements of the funding specifically for Opioid substitution treatment. However, costs attributed to The Methadone Treatment Scheme (excluding the funding or operation of Treatment Clinics) are set out in the below table:

HSE PCRS - Methadone Expenditure 2012 - 2013	
Years	National Spend
2012	€18,404,938
2013	€19,267,629
Year to date August 2014	€13,159,000

Note: The total cost of the Methadone Treatment Scheme during the period 2012 to August 2014 comprises:

1. Pharmacy - Ingredient cost and the associated dispensing fees
2. GPs - Fees paid to GPs contracted to the General Medical Services (GMS) Scheme who are registered to provide services to clients approved under the Methadone Treatment Scheme.

I trust this information is of assistance. If you require any further information please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Doyle  
National Planning Specialist  
Social Inclusion