



13th July 2023

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan, TD
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ34352/23

To ask the Minister for Health the number of people, other than those in prison, currently involved in drug rehabilitation programmes; the extent of the programmes, whether first-time involvement or not in such programme; the number of persons who have been involved in such programmes more than once or more than five programmes in the past twelve months; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Durkan,

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

Given the broad scope of rehabilitation and that it is not clearly distinguished, it is not possible to provide the precise number of cases involved in rehabilitation. Provided in the attached Table 1 are the number of drug treatment cases in 2022 excluding those that received detoxification only, counselling only, OAT only or were treated in a prison setting. This data was obtained from the National Drugs Treatment Reporting System and identifies whether cases which were previously treated or not.

We cannot provide the number of times individuals have been involved in rehabilitation as currently there is no unique health identifier in Ireland in widespread use.

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

Yours sincerely,

Prof Eamon Keenan
National Clinical Lead-Addiction Services
HSE National Social Inclusion Office



Table 1: Number of drug cases entering rehabilitation by drug treatment status, NDTRS 2022

| Drug treatment status | Frequency | Percent |
|------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Never treated | 2972 | 38.5 |
| Previously treated | 4257 | 55.2 |
| Not Known | 484 | 6.3 |
| Total | 7713 | 100.0 |