



20<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
John Connoly, TD  
Dáil Eireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 17530/26**

**To ask the Minister for Health the total monies extended by the HSE in the purchasing of residential care treatment episodes for people with drug, gambling and alcohol related addiction in 2023, 2024 and 2025; the number of patients for whom treatment episodes were purchased; and if she will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Connolly,

The Health Service Executive have 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.

Regarding the number of patients for whom treatment episodes were purchased, an analysis of the data provided in treatment services within the National Drugs Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS) (see information about the [NDTRS](#)) includes all treatment cases reporting drugs, alcohol or gambling as a main problem which were assessed and treated at publicly funded service providers in the years 2023 and 2024 (the most recent year available) and where reported to the NDTRS. The number of episodes are summarised by main problem and year in Table 1. Note this includes all treatment episodes, not specifically those availed of through public funding.

**Table 1: Number of residential episodes for drug, alcohol and gambling, NDTRS 2023 and 2024.**

Main Problem	2023	2024
Alcohol	2743	2652
Drugs	1797	1837
Gambling	105	79
<b>Total</b>	<b>4645</b>	<b>4568</b>

Regarding total monies extended by the HSE in the purchasing of treatment episodes during the above treatment periods, it is not possible to disaggregate funding for specific types of addiction treatment. However, Table 2 below provides the 2023 and 2024 Addiction spend, based on consolidated financial information available through the HSE general ledgers for Social Inclusion; note that where the funding covered more than one target group (e.g. Addiction, Homelessness, Migrant Health, etc), 'best fit' was



applied and expenditure aligned to one specific area. In addition to services provided by HSE Social Inclusion, other areas of the HSE provide services in relation to addiction, including Primary Care Services, Acute Hospital Services and Emergency Departments, Health & Wellbeing, Mental Health, GPs providing front-line services and Primary Care Reimbursement Service; attributed budgets are not available for addiction within these areas.

**Table 2: 2023 and 2024 Addiction spend**

2023	2024
€133,436,728	€146,023,000

For the Deputy’s information, the HSE has a guideline rate for treatment episodes have been derived from a Unit Cost Analysis (UCA) study, which ranges from €1,500 for detoxification to €10,500 for detoxification and short-stay. HSE Service Level Agreement Holders agree on specific rates with each service provider based on their individual results from the UCA and funding available. Where HSE funding is provided to a Tier 4 service, funding models can vary across HSE regions and within individual service level agreements. Funding may be provided in one or more of the following ways: on a per-bed allocation basis, on a per-treatment basis where each treatment is paid for separately, or on a facility/staffing-cost basis.

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

Yours sincerely,

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Joseph Doyle  
National Lead, Social Inclusion