

6<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
Louis O'Hara, TD  
Dáil Eireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 16357/26**

**To ask the Minister for Health the supports available to people who cannot afford the cost of residential treatment for alcohol addiction; and if she will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy O'Hara,

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.

The HSE provides a range of supports to ensure that individuals who cannot afford the cost of residential treatment for alcohol addiction can still access appropriate care. Access to Tier 4 residential treatment is facilitated through referral by HSE addiction services, which may allocate HSE-funded residential treatment episodes where clinically indicated.

The HSE have a pathway that ensures individuals are supported to access the least intensive intervention appropriate to their needs. Residential treatment is offered only where it forms an appropriate component of an individual's care plan. This pathway ensures that comprehensive pre-treatment and post-treatment supports, including counselling, rehabilitative work, and aftercare, are in place, as these are essential to effective treatment outcomes.

Access to HSE-purchased residential episodes is not based on financial means, but rather on their engagement with HSE addiction services and the clinical appropriateness of residential care in their treatment plan. A community GP can refer an individual to the local HSE Addiction services for a comprehensive review of their needs.

Through addiction services, individuals are linked with a wide range of local supports, both community-based and online, to assist them in stabilising their situation and preparing for treatment. Where residential care is assessed as the appropriate next step, the HSE addiction service will guide the individual through the established pathway into Tier 4 treatment.

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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Prof Eamon Keenan  
National Clinical Lead for HSE Addiction Services