

Deputy Catherine Byrne, T.D.
Minister of State for Health,
Department of Health,
Hawking House,
Hawkins Street,
Dublin 2

6th December, 2018.

Our Ref: 60258

Re: Clondalkin Area Committee Meeting of South Dublin County Council
held on 21st November, 2018.

Dear Minister Byrne,

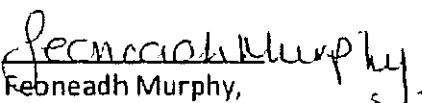
At the meeting of the Clondalkin Area Committee held on 21st November, the following Motion was adopted and approved by the Members:

"In Budget 2018, the government announced an additional allocation of 6.5m euro for drug-related actions but this is just one off funding and is inefficient to support the strategic and sustainable investment in local services in Clondalkin.

This Committee calls for the 2019 budget to provide for the restoration of the Drugs and Alcohol Task Force budgets to pre-austerity 2008 levels."

I would be obliged for your comments and response as soon as possible to enable me to revert to the Committee.

Yours sincerely,



Rebneadh Murphy,
Senior Staff Officer.



Ref: NO713

29 March 2019

Ms Feoneadh Murphy
South Dublin County Council
County Hall
Tallaght
Dublin 24

Environment Water & Climate Change

2 APR 2019

60258

Dear Ms Murphy

Minister of State for Health Promotion and the National Drugs Strategy, Catherine Byrne T.D. has asked me to thank you for your recent correspondence concerning the Clondalkin Area Committee - Motion to restore Drug and Alcohol Task Force funding to pre-austerity 2008 levels and to respond on her behalf.

A total of €27.645m was allocated to the Drug and Alcohol Task forces by the Department and the HSE in 2018. This level of funding has been maintained for the past number of years.

A further €0.5 million in one-off funding was provided to Task Forces in 2018. In addition, Task Forces were consulted by the HSE on the provision of €0.71 million in one-off funding for priority projects and services in CHO areas in 2018.

I would point out that the additional €6.5m in funding announced by the Government in budget 2018 was provided for new developments in the areas of addiction services, drugs strategy initiatives and social inclusion.

Implementing *Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery - a health-led response to drug and alcohol use in Ireland 2017 -2025* , continues to be a Government priority and Task forces have an important role in delivering the strategy at the local level.

On 6th March 2019, Minister Byrne announced additional funding of €1 million for implementation of the National Drugs Strategy; "Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery". This funding, which will be provided on a recurring, multi-annual basis, will address the priorities set down in the Strategy including early harm reduction responses, emerging trends in substance misuse, and improving services for at-risk groups.

Working in partnership with statutory, community and voluntary sectors is central to this response. On the 26th of March, the Minister met with the Local and Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Forces, and the HSE, to discuss with them on how best to target the additional funding. The system of allocation will be informed by this consultation and further information on the proposed allocation of this new funding will be circulated to the Drug & Alcohol Task Forces and the HSE in due course.

I hope that this information will be of some assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



Alan Kelly
Private Secretary