

Question

Please provide me with a summary of all support provided by DoH to people at risk of / experiencing domestic violence over the period 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2021, disaggregated by sex.

For each year, please also advise me of the amount of funding support provided by DoH to charities that are members of the Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland.

Please also confirm if any support services funded by DoH refuse access to children under the age of 18 on the basis of their sex.

For context, a 2020 report by Women's Aid confirmed that they continue to operate exclusionary criteria that bar boy child survivors from access to many of their refuges and related specialist support services

Response

During this period, the Department of Health (DoH) funded a number of key services, all of which were available to both women and men:

The Domestic and Sexual Abuse Helpline. This is a confidential, Freephone service, available 24/7. The Helpline is jointly funded by DoH, the Department of Justice (DoJ) and the Department for Communities (DfC).

Co-ordinator posts for the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (also known as 'MARACs') so that local agencies can meet to discuss high risk victims in their area. This is jointly funded by DoH, DoJ and the Police Service of NI (PSNI).

The Rowan Sexual Assault Referral Centre which provides support and services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to individuals who have been sexually abused, assaulted, raped in the past or recently. The Rowan is jointly funded by DoH and the PSNI.

Piloting the Identification and Referral to Improve Safety ('IRIS') Programme with General Practice. IRIS trains and supports GPs to identify and refer patients affected by domestic and sexual abuse to specialist advocacy support. This programme is being co-produced with Women's Aid, Men's Advisory Project, Victim Support NI and Nexus NI and has to date been running in East Belfast and the Newry and Mourne area.

Year	Service	£
	Grant funding to Women's Aid Federation NI (WAFNI)	147,946.00
2019/20	Grant funding to WAFNI	147,946.00
2020/21	Grant funding to WAFNI	147,946.00
	DoH, through the HSCB, provided £60k of funding to Women's Aid local branches over a three month period to provide an	60,000.00

	initial care package for families who have experienced, or been a victim of, domestic abuse. This package provided food parcels, home based resources and games for families, laptops for children without access and provision of mobile phones for mothers for the specific purpose of safety planning.	
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As outlined above, services funded by DoH are available regardless of a person's gender. It may be helpful to note that the NI Housing Executive is responsible for the provision of emergency/refuge accommodation.

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