

REQUEST

I am seeking information regarding the current support and provision for persons presenting with a gambling disorder and affected others within Criminal Justice system. The following questions require a response, to support the identification, treatment and diversion of persons presenting with a gambling disorder within the Criminal Justice system.

1. Does screening for gambling disorder take place among detainees in any part of your force?

YES...If detainees disclose gambling problems during Custody Sergeant booking in risk assessments, or referrals made by Police or other agencies for example solicitors. Learning and Diversion will speak to the detainee and make onward referrals. However consent is required for the process.

If yes,

a. Which detainees are being screened?

Anyone with vulnerabilities. Detainees with Alcohol/substance abuse issues, mental health, homeless, elderly persons. This is dependent on disclosures being made and the detainees requesting help.

b. What are the triggers for a gambling screening?

As above

c. Who does the screening and where?

Initially by custody sergeants via booking in risk assessments and custody staff. Liaison and Diversion practitioners will continue the process.

d. What tools are used?

There are no tools as such used for the assessment.

However, Liaison and Diversion will make referrals Aquarius Charity and Gamblers Anonymous to support individuals that have requested support.

e. What pathways are in place if gambling problems are identified?

Detainees are assessed in custody.

There are outreach pathways within Liaison and Diversion that support clients in the community.

2. Does your service have a partnership with a gambling treatment provider in your area?

NO

If yes, provide details please

3 a) Is there training on prevention or education provided to your Custody Officers, Police Staff or Health Care Professionals, to identify and address gambling disorders?

YES....Aquarius Charity offers training for gambling to Liaison & Diversion practitioners.

3. b) If yes, what form does this take?

Face to face training prior the Covid 19 Pandemic.

zoom sessions are now taking place

4. Do you know of any other Police Service who are active in the identification and addressing gambling disorder?

NO

If yes, can you please provide details?

5. A) Any additional comments or observations that can support this program?

Please be advised that this is not a valid Freedom of information Act request as it does not fulfil Section 8 of the Act. It is not a request for specific recorded information and the authority does not have to answer your question if this would mean creating new information or giving an opinion or judgement that is not already recorded.

It does not require public authorities to answer questions generally, only if they already hold the answers in recorded form.

However we have been provided with the following comment

“There needs to be greater media attention covering this issue and on line referrals system “