

Client	Dr Nel – HSW Clinic
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BY SEAN MURPHY

**HAIR transplant experts have combed through new figures to find that demand for surgical top-ups has surged up by 50% during the Covid-19 pandemic.**

They say that the spike in inquiries started in the first lockdown and shows no sign of receding.

Pop guru Louis Walsh, 69, actor James Nesbitt, 57, footballer Wayne Rooney, 36, singer Elton John, 74, and Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp, 54, did not split hairs about their need for a transplant and have raised awareness of the procedure.

Hair loss is an issue for plenty of men, but new statistics show that more and

more of those who find themselves in the hairy situation are proverbially ripping their hair out with worry.

It is clear, according to some hair restoration surgeons, that men with a hair loss condition cannot brush off their cares, so they are seeking transplants.

Dr Andre Nel from HSW Clinic in Swords, Co Dublin, warned that hair loss can leave people on the "brink of mental and emotional exhaustion from the despair".

He named well-known men like TV3's Ireland AM presenter Alan Hughes, 58, and Kerry GAAs All Ireland winner Darran O'Sullivan, 35, as recent successful recipients.

Dr Nel added: "There was a

huge spike in hair transplant procedures and enquiries over the past 18 months.

"With lockdowns allowing for more time at home to recover from the

procedure, men are turning to hair restoration to stave off the drop in confidence which many experience alongside hair loss.

"Many men decided it would be the perfect time to tackle fading hairlines and boost their confidence.

"With many people experiencing healthier bank balances, there has never been a better time to tackle hair loss with a lasting solution."

Like other specialists, Dr Nel, who is originally from South Africa, uses techniques called Follicular Unit Extraction and Follicular Unit Transplant.

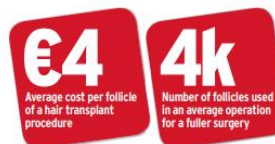
FUT is a strip method that removes lines of follicles from the back of the head, whereas FUE is removes individual hair follicles from the scalp.

The expense can range widely between specialists, but a price of €4 per follicle – with each unit containing two or three hairs – is not

unusual.

This means a limited transplant of 1,000 follicles will cost €4,000, while a fuller procedure of 4,000 follicles can reach €16,000.

news@irishmirror.ie



**SURGERY** Dr Andre Nel