



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Ceannaire Seirbhíse  
Seirbhísí Meabhairshláinte an Mheán Iarthair  
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Mr. Timmy Dooley,  
8 Mill Rd, Cloughleigh,  
Ennis,  
Co. Clare

1<sup>st</sup> May 2019

**Re: PQ 16147/17 – “To ask the Minister for Health the number of HSE psychiatrists working with persons in west County Clare”**

Dear Deputy Dooley,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question and wish to advise of the following.

The Consultant Psychiatrist for the West Sector of the Clare/North Tipperary Mental Health Services has been on Maternity leave from May 2018 and has recently resigned from her position as Temporary Consultant Psychiatrist with our Services. Another Consultant took up the Locum position during the maternity leave but unfortunately left at the end of January 2019.

We have made every effort to recruit a Consultant however there are no available Consultants currently. Consultant colleagues have provided cross cover for the Sector but this is a limited service and cannot replace a full time Consultant. There are many patients awaiting outpatient appointments and a Consultant Colleague from outside the CHO area has provided 3 days of outpatient clinics recently to assist. Further contact with this Consultant has been made to see if we can arrange some additional outpatient clinic appointments to review the situation and deal with the outstanding backlog.

Additionally, the consultant who provided cover from mid 2018 to January 2019 was able to assist for a number of days over the Easter period. Efforts to source a Locum will continue, however, Locum Consultant Psychiatrists are not readily available. The matter is under continuous review by the Executive Clinical Director, Dr. John O Mahoney, Clinical Director Dr. Deirdre Smithwick and the undersigned.

I trust this clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Sparling  
Head of Service,  
Mid West Mental Health Services