



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse
Sláinte
Ospidéal Dr. Steevens'
Baile Átha Cliath 8
Rphost: theresa.heller@hse.ie

Health Service Executive
Dr. Steevens Hospital
Dublin 8.
Email: theresa.heller@hse.ie

19th February 2019

Barry Cowen TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ 5398/19: To ask the Minister for Health the action that will be taken to address the significant shortage of specialist psychiatrist positions in the midlands; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Barry Cowen

Dear Deputy Cowen,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

There are currently 50 psychiatry positions within the midlands which range within the following areas: Psychiatry of Learning Disability, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, General Psychiatry and Psychiatry of Old Age. Within the 50 positions available 48 of these are currently filled.

(This data is taken from our national Doctors Integrated E-management System (DIME) and as such is dependent on Hospital Groups/CHOs inputting details on their consultant workforce. This database has recently been introduced and the data matching exercise is not currently 100% completed, and as such there may be variances and gaps in the data supplied to that held within hospitals/CHOs.)

The Health Service Executive are acutely aware of a high volume of vacancies both nationally and at local level, and are putting in place a number of enablers to work towards addressing these vacancies. They are also examining specific issues in areas with vacancies above the national average, and have approved bespoke recruitment strategies and promotional campaigns in renowned international journals.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Theresa Heller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the first few letters.

Theresa Heller
Human Resources
Mental Health