



04/03/2019

Deputy Jack Chambers,
 Dáil Eireann,
 Leinster House,
 Kildare Street,
 Dublin 2.

PQ 6629/19

To ask the Minister for Health the number of psychologists in post by CHO nationally in tabular form; the target number of psychologists by CHO as advised in the A Vision for Change document in tabular form; the measures in place to address the shortage of psychologists across the health service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Jack Chambers

Dear Deputy Chambers,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for response.

Please see below table detailing the number of Psychologists per CHO and area of care including both HSE and Section 38 staff.

Table 1: HSE and Section 38 Psychologist Staffing

Employment by Psychologist	CHO 1	CHO 2	CHO 3	CHO 4	CHO 5	CHO 6	CHO 7	CHO 8	CHO 9	Total
Psychologist Clinical	15	31	20	57	25	16	36	19	44	263
Psychologist Educational	1	0	0	0	1	2	5	3	3	15
Psychologist Counselling	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	1	3	8
Psychologist, Principal Clinical	3	4	5	3	6	10	10	6	10	57
Psychologist, Senior Clinical	39	47	26	51	35	38	30	54	62	382
Psychologist Trainee Clinical	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Total	61	84	119	133	75	67	84	106	170	900

791.1 is the target number of psychologists nationally, as advised in the *A Vision for Change* (2006) document. Please note Community Health Organisations were not in existence at the time of *Vision for Change* (2006) was published, as such a breakdown of the recommended number of psychologists as recommended in *Vision for Change* is not available.

A Vision for Change recommended staffing responses to a variety of issues within mental health on a population basis. Please note that Staffing and Infrastructure Requirements are outlined in Appendix 17.2 *A Vision for Change* on pages 261 – 263. A summary is given in the below table.

Table 2: Staffing Recommendations as Outlined in *Vision for Change*

Recommendation <i>Vision for Change</i>	Total Psychologists Needed
<p>CAMHS 1 CAMHS team should provide mental health care in local sectors of approximately 50,000 population Each team should have 2 clinical psychologists</p>	188
<p>General Adult 1 General adult mental health services should provide mental health care in local sectors of approximately 50,000 population Each team should have 2 psychologists</p>	188
<p>Rehab 1 Rehabilitation and recovery CMHTs should provide mental health care with assigned sector populations of 100,000. Each team should have 2 clinical psychologists</p>	94
<p>Psychiatry of later life MHPoLL should operate through specialised CMHTs, with one team per 100,000 population with 1 clinical psychologist per team</p>	47
<p>MHID teams Two teams should be provided in each catchment area of approximately 300,000 population to serve adults with intellectual disability and mental health problems one team per catchment area be provided for children with intellectual disability and mental health problems. Two psychologists per team</p>	93.6 for both adult and child
<p>Substance misuse/ dual diagnosis Specialist adult teams should be developed in each catchment area of 300,000 to manage complex, severe substance abuse and mental disorder. 1 clinical psychologist per team- Adolescents with co-morbid abuse and mental health problems, the number of specialist adolescent teams should be increased from the current number of two in the Dublin area to four nationally with 1</p>	15.6 adult 4 adolescent

clinical psychologist on each	
Adult Eating Disorder Catchment area of 1 million 2 psychologists per team	9.4
Early Intervention Community Mental Health Team 2 teams needed and 2 psychologists on each	4
Inpatient CAMHS 5 units with 20 beds per unit	20
Forensic 1 team per 100,000 2.5 clinical psychologists on each team	117.5
2 CAMHS Forensic team with 2 psychologists on each team	4
Forensic MHID 1 team with 2 psychologists on the team	2
Homelessness Mental health service for homeless people 2 teams required with 2 psychologists on each team	4
Total	791.1

The HSE has implemented a number of measures to help reduce the shortage of Psychologists across the health service. This includes:

- Increasing funded training places in Clinical Psychology
- Close liaison with professional training programmes to provide supervised placements to increase the likelihood of recruitment of graduates
- An increase in recruitment of Psychology Assistant roles
- The establishment of a National Panel to progress Psychology issues
- Recruitment through Agency

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



David Walsh,
National Director,
Community Operations