



11/03/2019

**Deputy John Lahart,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.**

PQ 9867/19

To ask the Minister for Health the reason the HSE does not allow non-HSE initiated psychological assessments from professionals even though the HSE often tenders out such assessments to the same professionals; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

-John Lahart

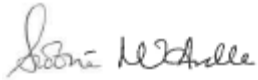
Dear Deputy Lahart,

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.

The HSE does not have a general national policy of not accepting private reports which it has not commissioned. Governance for the acceptance of reports from private practitioners (whether commissioned by the HSE or not) rests at the principal psychologist manager level in any given area. A suitably qualified psychologist may also be delegated this role by the psychology manager. Their role is to assess any report compiled by non-HSE psychologists against the standard of governance adhered to in the HSE. The standards vary depending on the type of assessment, and may depend on factors including, but not limited to, type of tests administered, processes followed, diagnostic framework used, and supervision structures. Governance may be at the case-by-case level, or may be at the provider level if for example there is a known & relevant systemic factor. Acceptance or non-acceptance of a report is not a global judgement on the provider or assessment findings, but rather a comparison or matching of the assessment process to that used by the HSE in each local area. We do not collate statistics on the rates of acceptance/non-acceptance of assessments from private providers, but can confirm that some such reports are being accepted on an on-going basis. Notably, the title of psychologist is not yet regulated by law and as such there is an increased need for governance of psychology reports originating from the private sector.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



Siobhán McArdle,
Head of Operations Primary Care,
Community Operations