

4th February 2019

Deputy John Brassil, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 2631/19

“To ask the Minister for Health if he is satisfied with the number of psychiatric nurses recruited in County Kerry in 2018; if he is further satisfied that only temporary contracts were offered; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Brassil,

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.

At all times Kerry Mental Health Services strives to ensure that the staff profile and skill mix appropriately meets the needs of all service users. As Head of Mental Health Services for Cork Kerry Community Healthcare I can confirm that I am satisfied with the number of psychiatric nurses recruited in county Kerry in 2018.

Along with others across the country, Kerry Mental Health Services are experiencing delays in recruiting psychiatric nurses to vacancies. We continue to work with our colleagues in the National Recruitment Service to expedite all nurse recruitment. Kerry Mental Health Services currently has 14wte nurse vacancies. All nurse graduates expressing an interest to remain in Kerry Mental Health Services were offered temporary contracts towards the end of 2018. This is in line with the National process for Graduate Nursing Recruitment 2017 which is outlined as follows;

“Nurse and Midwife graduates will be offered permanent contracts having regard to service need and subject to the usual satisfactory recruitment process, i.e. recruitment competition, reference checks, occupational health clearance, Garda clearance, copy of qualifications checks, etc. These processes also include the use of relevant existing nursing National Recruitment Panels in the first instance. Recent Nurse Graduates may only be offered permanent posts through this process”.

After consideration of candidates from the relevant existing nursing National Recruitment Panels is completed, then nursing graduates that have been successful through a local recruitment process may be offered temporary positions to fill existing vacancies. Acceptance of a temporary local vacancy does not preclude the candidates from accepting permanent appointments through the National Recruitment Panels when they reach the top of said panel and a suitable vacancy arises for filling.

I can confirm that we are currently progressing filling of a number of Kerry nursing posts through the National Panel.

I trust this clarifies the query raised.

Kind regards,



Ms. Sinéad Glennon
Head of Mental Health Services
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare