



Oifig an Cheannasaí Oibríochtaí & Feabhsúcháin Seirbhíse
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta

Office of the Head of Operations & Service Improvement
Services for Older People

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May 21, 2019

Deputy Mattie McGrath,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy McGrath,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Question which was submitted to this Department for response.

PQ 18851/19

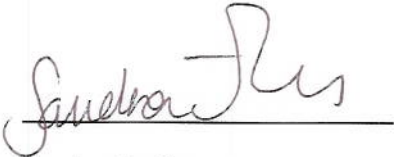
***To ask the Minister for Health if the Health the number of senior case workers for the protection of older persons employed on a LHO area basis for each of the years 2011 to 2018 and to date in 2019; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

In 2007, the HSE established an Elder Abuse Service with the creation of Senior Case work positions in each of the network of 32 Local Health Officers of the HSE. These posts were created to manage allegations of abuse and neglect of those aged 65 and over. After 2014, the work of this service was incorporated into a new Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse, National Policy and Procedures (2014). This policy has an operational reach across all HSE and HSE funded social care services including older person's services and services for persons with disabilities.

During the period from 2011 to 2015 the number of senior case workers positions would have been 32 whole time equivalent positions (WTE's) and from 2015 these positions were amalgamated into the newly created HSE Safeguarding and Protection Teams across the nine Community Healthcare Organisations. These Teams undertake a range of safeguarding duties for community referrals and

oversight of adult safeguarding with funded services. The work of the Safeguarding Teams extends across Social Care and incorporates Older Persons and Adults with Disabilities. There are currently 67.8 WTE social worker positions in the HSE Safeguarding and Protection Teams with 56.2 WTE currently in post.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sandra Tuohy', is written over a solid black horizontal line.

Sandra Tuohy

Assistant National Director,

Services for Older People Operations