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6<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Deputy Gerry Adams,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 21079/19**

To ask the Minister for Health the number of whole-time equivalent staff working in the National Counselling Service; and the staff vacancies that exist

-Gerry Adams

Dear Deputy Adams,

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 National Counselling Service currently provides counselling to adults who have experienced childhood abuse as well as counselling in primary care through the CIPC service. In addition the NCS is responsible for delivery of the Self-Harm Intervention service in Community Healthcare Southeast and the Traumatic Bereavement service in CHO 1.

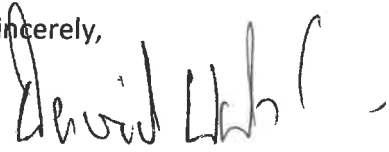
The service is provided by Counsellors/Therapists employed by the HSE as well as Counsellors/Therapists contracted from an agency.

The number of WTE staff currently working with the NCS is as follows:

- At 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019 there were **78.8 WTE Counsellor/Therapists in post** working with the NCS with **19.4 WTE vacancies** .
- 23.7 administration support staff currently work with the NCS. There are 7 WTE clerical administration vacancies.
- Clinical Governance and management of the service is provided by 9 Directors of Counselling nationally. 3 of these posts are currently filled on a temporary basis

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Walsh", written over a horizontal line.

David Walsh,  
National Director,  
Community Operations