



04/11/2019

Deputy James Browne,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 42393/19 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of the 114 assistant psychologists that are currently employed; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**-James Browne**

Dear Deputy Browne,

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.

Based on information provided by each Community Health Organisation on the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019, the current number of Assistant Grade Psychologist posts filled is 55.4 whole time equivalent (wte) staff, with 58.6 wte vacancies.

In August of each year a number of Assistant Grade Psychologist take up their places on the Graduate Clinical Psychology Programmes, therefore there is a reduction in the numbers in post. Currently the HSE is reviewing an initial draft of the Evaluation Report by the University of Limerick on the impact of Assistant Psychology Grade. Once this is completed, a decision will be made pertaining to the extension of the 2 year pilot initiative at which point the vacant posts will be offered to the Assistant Psychologist Panel.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Siobhán McArdle'.

Siobhán McArdle,  
Head of Operations Primary Care,  
Community Operations