



21st July 2020

Deputy Denis Naughten,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 13914/20 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of addiction counsellors employed by the HSE by county in the Saolta group area; the number of vacancies that exist in those counties for addiction counsellors; when those vacancies will be filled; the level of qualification required for such a role; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

-Denis Naughten

Dear Deputy Naughten,

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 number of addiction counsellors and vacancies of addiction counsellors in Mental Health Services (MHS) in the Saolta area is broken down by county as per Table 1 below # (Note that some areas data is collated collectively)

Table 1: Number of Addiction in MHS Counsellors and Vacancies by County

County/Countries	Number of Addiction Counsellors	Number of Vacancies to be Filled
Donegal	8	0
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan/South Donegal	6	0
Cavan/Monaghan	4	0
Galway	7	
Mayo	3.5	0.5
Roscommon	1.5	0
Total	30	0.5

Any vacancies currently in place will be filled in line with current funded workforce levels.

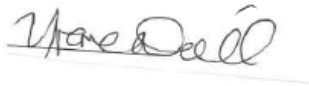
The qualifications for addiction counsellors are as follows;

- Must be a Clinical Nurse Specialist in addictions. To achieve this they have to Candidates must be registered in the Psychiatric Division of the Register of Nurses kept by the Nursing Midwifery Board Ireland (Bord Altranais agus Cnáimhseachais na hÉireann) or be entitled to be so registered.

- Have at least 5 years post registration experience in the division of the register in which the applicant is currently practicing.
- Have a minimum of 2 years' experience in the specialist area.
- Have the ability to practice safely and effectively fulfilling his/her professional responsibility within his/her scope of practice.
- Must demonstrate evidence of continuing professional development.
- Must have a level 8 post psychiatric registration prior to application.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



Yvonne O'Neill,
Interim National Director,
Community Operations