



23rd July 2020

Deputy Willie O'Dea,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 16614/20 - To ask the Minister for Health the estimated full-year cost of recruiting of 50 additional assistant psychologists in primary care; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

-Willie O'Dea

Dear Deputy O'Dea,

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 estimated cost of recruiting an additional 50 Assistant Psychologists would be €1.6m. There are no plans at this point to increase the number of Assistant Psychologists employed until such time as the current evaluation process, which is being conducted on our behalf by the University of Limerick, is concluded.

There was approval to appoint 114 Assistant Psychologists in 2016 and a formal evaluation on the impact of these posts as identified above is in place.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Pp

Siobhán McArdle,
Head of Operations Primary Care,
Community Operations