



14/08/2020

Deputy Pat Buckley,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 20560/19 – To ask the Minister for Health the number of additional psychologist and assistant psychologist positions for free counselling services provided for in Budget 2020; and the number of these posts have been filled**

**-Pat Buckley**

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Dear Deputy Buckley,

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 Service Plan 2016 provided €5m to address psychology services in primary care. The only additional posts which have come in place since 2016 (which came online at the end of 2017) are;

- 114 x Assistant Psychologists - €3,411,432
- 20 x Staff Grade Child Psychologists - €1,472,160

The funding of 114 assistant psychologist posts aims to deliver rapid access low intensity psychological interventions for young people. The Assistant Psychologist posts are necessary to deliver stepped care that will result in high throughput. The Assistant Psychologists engage with young people with mild to moderate mental health problems.

The funding of 20 additional Staff Grade Psychologists is for children in geographical areas where there are none or inadequate numbers of posts in place. This provides the necessary clinical governance framework required to oversee stepped care provision by Assistant Psychologists.

Please see attached Table 1 detailing the number of new positions and the costs of these positions by CHO.

**Table 1:**

NUMBER OF POSTS 2017	Assign New Posts			2017 Allocation		
	Assistant Grade	Staff Grade	Total Posts	Assistant Grade	Staff Grade	2017 COSTS
CHO1	8	0	8	€241,504	€0	€241,504
CHO2	9	0	9	€271,692	€0	€271,692
CHO3	11	2	13	€332,068	€147,216	€479,284
CHO4	18	3	21	€543,384	€220,824	€764,208
CHO5	11	0	11	€332,068	€0	€332,068
CHO6	10	3	13	€301,880	€220,824	€522,704
CHO7	18	6	24	€543,384	€441,648	€985,032
CHO8	15	0	15	€452,820	€0	€452,820
CHO9	14	6	20	€422,632	€441,648	€864,280
<b>National Total</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>€3,441,432</b>	<b>€1,472,160</b>	<b>€4,913,592</b>

The Service plan 2020 did not specifically identify new development Psychology and Assistant Psychology posts.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



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TJ Dunford.  
General Manager  
National Primary Care Operations