



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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**24<sup>th</sup> November 2020,  
Deputy Kathleen Funchion,  
Dail Eireann,  
Dublin 2.**

**35021/20 To ask the Minister for Health the additional counselling staff, that is, whole-time employees that will be deployed to the HSE to provide counselling services specifically for mother and baby home survivors.**

**35022/20 - To ask the Minister for Health the additional counselling staff, that is, whole-time employees that will be deployed to provide counselling services specifically for mother and baby home survivors.**

Dear Deputy Funchion,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The HSE has developed an implementation plan in relation to provision of counselling services to former residents of Mother and Baby Homes.

This plan recommends the development of 10 additional WTE Counsellor/Therapist posts within the HSE National Counselling Service in 2020.

An additional 30 Counsellor/Therapist posts are recommended for development in 2021 along with 10 Senior Counsellor/Therapist to ensure appropriate governance and clinical supervision. This development is subject to funding. Once clarification regarding funding for these posts is received the necessary preliminary work on recruitment will commence.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Sinead Reynolds  
General Manager Mental Health Services