



**Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta, Acmhainní Daonna**

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte

Ospidéal Dr. Steevens'

Baile Átha Cliath 8

**Office of the National Director of Human Resources**

Health Service Executive

Dr. Steevens' Hospital

Dublin 8

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8<sup>th</sup> October, 2020

**Roisin Shortall, T.D.,**

**PQ26131/20 To ask the Minister for Health the timeline to establish the national psychology placement office which will be tasked with examining the funding for all trainee psychologists; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Róisín Shortall**

Dear Deputy,

I refer to your recent parliamentary question which was forwarded to the HSE for response.

In 2016 a Review Group produced the “Report of the Review Group – Eligibility Criteria for Recruitment of Psychologists to the Health Service Executive”. An Implementation Group that was established to look at implementing the revised eligibility standards, due to come into effect in October 2018, recommended the creation of a National Psychology Placement Office.

The National Director for Human Resources committed to establishing a Project Team to implement this recommendation and, inter alia, consider the preparation of a workforce plan for psychological services in the HSE, including an examination of the current framework for training psychologists for the health service and the type and skill-mix required for the future.

In February 2019, HSE Community Operations convened a Project Team, chaired by Dr Cathal Morgan, comprised of representatives from Clinical, Counselling and Educational Psychology; Social Care, Disability, and Mental Health services; Community and Acute services; Operational and National HR; and the Health and Social Care Professions office. The work of the Project Team has been informed by a thorough stakeholder consultation process. Due to the recent public health emergency the work of the Project Team was paused in March 2020 and reconvened in early August 2020.

It is anticipated that the Report of the Project Team will be finalised in the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marie O'Sullivan".

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**Marie O Sullivan**  
**National HR**