



Mark Ward TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

18th March 2021

PQ 10665/21

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of psychologists per grade in primary healthcare; the number per capita of population; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Mark Ward”

Dear Deputy Ward,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 10665/21), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE is working to ensure timely access for children and adults requiring psychology services. The HSE is committed to delivering efficient high quality psychology services to all eligible service users. In 2020 a total of 41,800 children and adult patients were seen by psychology services. At January 2021 there were 296.52 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) psychologists of all grades in Primary Care compared to 296 WTE at January 2020. There are currently 16 active recruitment campaigns for psychology posts in Primary Care at various grades across the country. The table below shows the number of Whole Time Equivalents (WTE) psychology staff by grade in Primary Care at January 2021. Note that this table only shows those psychologists employed in Primary Care and does not include psychologists employed by Mental Health services for example. The total population per the 2016 census was 4,761,865 which equates to 16,059 people to every psychologist WTE employed in Primary Care at January 2021.

Grade	WTE Jan 2021
Total Psychologists	296.52
Psychologist, Senior Clinical	95.86
Psychologist, Clinical	88.99
Psychologist, Trainee Clinical	70.00
Psychologist, Principal Clinical	32.78
Psychologist, Senior Educational	2.79
Psychologist, Counselling	3.30
Psychologist, Educational	2.80

To address the current third wave of Covid infections there was a requirement to prioritise the level of services delivered during this period. Building upon the experience from earlier waves of the pandemic, Community Services have developed a prioritisation framework to support local decisions to be made on service prioritisation. This approach will ensure that services will be focused on identifying and supporting patients who have the greatest need and enabling staff to be deployed where necessary to support these patients. Where services are curtailed or reduced, this will be in line with clinical approval, a shared national position and with an appropriate risk assessment and communication with providers, service users and families. It is the intention of Community Services that full services would return as soon as is safe and practicable.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



TJ Dunford

Head of Operations; Primary Care.
Community Operations.