



Eagraíocht Cúram
Sláinte Pobail
Tuaisceart Chathair &
Tuaisceart Chontae
Bhaile Átha Cliath

Community Healthcare
Organisation
Dublin North City &
County

Ceannasaí Seirbhíse Cúram Príomhúil,
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail
Tuaisceart Chathair & Tuaisceart Chontae
Bhaile Átha Cliath,
Saoráid Cúram Sláinte Bhaile Munna,
Bhaile Munna, Baile Átha Cliath 9, DO9 C8P5.

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HSE Community Healthcare Organisation
Dublin North City & County,
Ballymun Healthcare Facility,
Ballymun, Dublin 9, DO9 C8P5.

Mr Richard Boyd Barrett TD
Dáil Eireann
Dublin 2

04th August 2021

PQ 23684/21 – To ask the Minister for Health his views on whether it is acceptable that the HSE recently advertised for unpaid voluntary assistant psychology posts involving a full range of professional duties for 20 hours per week: the way in which young person’s trying to progress and gain experience in their training as psychologists could be expected to perform unpaid work for the HSE and at the same time survive financially; if he will instruct the HSE to pay psychologists for their work as assistant psychologists and on placements while training; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Richard Boyd Barrett

Dear Deputy Boyd Barrett,

In the first instance I wish to apologise for the delay in responding due to the cyber-attack.

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.

Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC) values the important contribution made by early career psychologists including Assistant Psychologists. In April 2021, an advertisement was placed for Assistant Psychology roles in a Google Group. When this advert was brought to our attention it was immediately removed and the process ceased. No appointments were made from this advert.

CHO DNCC continue to participate in the national pilot currently underway to establish the efficacy of the Assistant Psychologist Grade as a paid grade, and have paid Assistant Psychologist roles employed in our CHO at present as part of this national pilot. The pilot of the assistant psychology grade in the health services is due for completion in September 2021. The University of Limerick are currently conducting an evaluation of the grade.

A decision on the future of the grade will issue in conjunction with the Department of Health after consideration of the findings of the University of Limerick evaluation.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Seirbhís Sláinte
Níos Fearr
á Forbairt

Building a
Better Health
Service

Yours sincerely.



Tom O' Brien
Head of Service Primary Care