



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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Head of Service Primary Care,  
HSE Community Healthcare Organisation  
Dublin North City & County,  
Ballymun Healthcare Facility,  
Ballymun, Dublin 9, DO9 C8P5.

Mr Ciarán Cannon TD  
Dáil Eireann  
Dublin 2

04<sup>th</sup> August 2021

**PQ 25190/21 – To ask the Minister for Health the person or body responsible for the creation and placing of a recent advertisement for the recruitment of unpaid assistant psychologists to HSE services; and the number of assistant psychologists currently working in a voluntary capacity within the HSE. – Ciarán Cannon**

Dear Deputy Cannon,

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.

Yours sincerely,

Tom O' Brien  
Head of Service Primary Care

Seirbhís Sláinte  
Níos Fearr  
á Forbairt

Building a  
Better Health  
Service