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BY EMAIL ONLY

5TH July, 2021

Mr. Patrick Costello TD
 Dáil Éireann
 Leinster House
 Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

RE: PQ ref 25243/21

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if his Department will subsidise counselling psychologists in training in Ireland in a way similar to clinical psychologists in training are, that is, salary for work experience and fees subsidised in view of the huge benefit this would be to encourage more persons to study this area and alleviating the huge waiting lists for counselling services.

Dear Deputy Costello,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to 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 Psychology Project Team developed a report which recommended the creation of a National Psychology Placement Office that has yet to be established. Part of the Project Team's work included a review of the workforce in the Irish Health Service and projected psychology services and a methodology was set out for wider psychology services both community and acute operations. The recommendations have yet to be implemented.

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,



Sinead Fitzpatrick
 A/National Lead
 National HSCP Office

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