

26<sup>th</sup> November, 2021

Mr Joe Flaherty T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**Re: Parliamentary Question – 52904/21**

**To ask the Minister for Health if the post for school age psychologist in County Longford has been filled. -  
Joe Flaherty**

Dear Deputy Flaherty,

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 I outline the position as follows.

Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation (MLM CHO) can confirm that the Longford Westmeath School Age Team Psychologist post has been vacant for some time due to difficulties in sourcing a psychologist to take up a post in this geographical area. Recruitment to this post is currently underway and the post has been submitted to the National Recruitment Service to be filled.

A substantial national panel of psychologists has just recently been created following an interview process in September 2021. The vacant Longford School Age Team post will be offered to all eligible candidates on this panel. It is hoped that this will result in a successful appointment to the post. It is currently challenging to recruit to psychology posts in disability due to a high demand for psychologists.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,



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Des O'Flynn  
Chief Officer  
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation