

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021

Deputy Aindrias Moynihan,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 48619/21**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the measures that are being taken to address the issue in relation to the recruitment of psychologists for CAMHS in Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter”**

Dear Deputy Moynihan,

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.

CAMHS services are designed for children and adolescents presenting with moderate to severe mental health disorders. There are 8 sector based teams in Cork Mental Health Services supported by Eist Linn, CAMHS inpatient unit Cork which provides a regional service to Cork, Kerry, Waterford, Wexford, South Tipperary, Carlow and Kilkenny. A Vision for Change recommends 2 WTE Psychologist per sector based CAMHS Community Mental Health Team.

All funded posts require approval from the National Division. There are currently 18.2 WTE (whole time equivalent) funded psychology posts allocated across CAMHS teams in Cork. The table hereunder outlines the WTE staffing assigned to each of these 8 CAMHS teams.

Team	Current WTE
North Lee West	2
North Lee East	2
North Lee North	1.4 *
North Cork	2.8
West Cork	2.6
South Lee 1	1.4*
South Lee 2	2**
South Lee 3	2
Eist Linn Inpatient Unit	2

Included in above table is \*1wte Senior Psychologist pending appointment via the national recruitment service to cover South Lee 1 which will allow the current senior to be based full time in North Lee North. Also included is \*\*1wte Senior Psychologist who will commence with the South

Lee 2 CAMHS team on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 as well as a staff grade psychologist pending start date with the national recruitment service.

There are 2 Senior Psychologists currently on maternity leave (North Lee North and South Lee 3).

As can be seen from above table and taking into account the recruitment activity underway, psychology staffing across the eight child and adolescent community mental health teams are in line with Vision for Change recommendations. Any vacant posts arising are being backfilled via HBS as priority posts.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Kind regards,



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**Mr Kevin Morrison**  
**A/Head of Mental Health Services**  
**Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**