



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. David Cullinane TD.
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

17th September 2021

PQ 43116/21 To ask the Minister for Health his views on the recruitment of assistant psychologists in an unpaid capacity; if the review has been carried out; if the results of the review will be made available to the public; and if he will make a statement on the matter. **David Cullinane TD**

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above enquiry which you submitted 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. As part of this national pilot CHO DNCC have paid Assistant Psychologist roles employed in our CHO at present. A review of the project was conducted by the University of Limerick and a copy of the review has issued to Department of Health for their consideration.

The contract for those assistant psychologists in the Health Service Executive is extended to the end of the year while we await a decision about whether the recommendations of the review are accepted.

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

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