



Head of HR, CHO 1
Donegal; Sligo / Leitrim; Cavan / Monaghan

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13th April 2022

Deputy Thomas Pringle,
Connolly House,
Bridge Street,
Killybegs,
Co. Donegal.

Re: PQ 18287/22: To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that the senior clinical psychologist with the HSE in County Donegal will be retiring in April 2022; the steps that have been taken to replace the person in this position; if the position has been advertised; the stage of the recruitment process for this or another psychologist position in County Donegal; the persons or persons who will take over while a replacement is being sought; the number of psychologists who will then be based in County Donegal after this retirement; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Pringle,

I refer to your recent Parliamentary Question regarding the Senior Clinical Psychologist position

There are two Senior Clinical Psychologists working within the Adult Primary Care Psychology Service in South and West Donegal, one of whom is retiring in May 2022. This post will transfer to Inishowen, where there is currently no Primary Care Psychology Service for adults. There will continue to be a service in South Donegal for those who require it. The remit of Primary Care Psychology Services is to provide a service to people with mild to moderate psychological presentations. Due to the demand for the service, psychological assessments and interventions are time limited.

There will be three Senior Psychologists in County Donegal working in the Adult Primary Care Service, four are required to ensure an equitable service to all geographic areas. The vacant post has been advertised internally and if unfilled will be expressed out to the National Senior Psychology panel which was established in January 2022.

I trust this information if of assistance to you, however if you have any further queries do not hesitate to contact my office

Yours sincerely,

Mr Patrick Murray,
Head of HR, CHO1