

19<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Deputy Holly Cairns  
Dáil Éireann  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 60370/22**

**“To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question 322 of 10 November 2022 (details supplied), the service developments that took place between 8 June and 15 June 2017 such that a permanent contract senior psychologist post in the North Cork / North Lee Older Adult Mental Health Services was, after being accepted on those advertised terms, changed within that seven day period to a permanent contract senior psychologist post in the general Adult Mental Health North Lee Services, and was not advertised to eligible candidates on those changed terms; the basis in employment law that such a rapid restructuring of a HSE post can be sanctioned after it had been advertised and filled on different terms; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”**

**Details supplied: given that the information requested directly affected a public appointment to a permanent contract HSE psychology post - the only such permanent contract recruitment of a psychologist in the Cork Adult Mental Health Services between June 2017 and April 2021 - and therefore was relevant to a large group of eligible psychologists placed at the time on the relevant national recruitment panel;**

Dear Deputy Cairns,

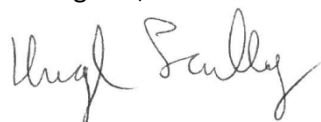
The Health Service Executive have been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted for the Minister for Health for a response.

The subject matter of this question is currently the subject of ongoing litigation and as such it would be contrary to fair procedures for a substantive response to be provided at this point.

There are questions of employment law which await determination and setting out the arguments in this forum would risk prejudice to any such determination.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Kind regards,



**Mr. Hugh Scully**  
**A/General Manager**  
**Mental Health Services**  
**Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**