



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Head of Mental Health Services,
HSE Offices,
St. Canices Hospital Complex
Dublin Road,
Kilkenny.

Telephone 353 56 7784432

20th December 2022

Mr. David Cullinane T.D.
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin

PQ 61634 22

To ask the Minister for Health if the consultant psychiatrist post for the South East in CHO5 has been filled; the basis and tenure on which it has been filled; the length of time that the post was vacant; the number of times that the post was advertised; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position:

It is assumed that the post you are referencing in your parliamentary question is the South East Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist - Learning Disability which has been vacant since early August 2022 (following a retirement).

Recruiting and retaining Consultant staff in Ireland is very challenging and particularly certain specialities in Mental Health.


There have been ongoing efforts to recruit to this post and I can advise that a suitable Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist has now accepted this position. In turn SECH MHS proceeded with the backfill of the applicant's current CAMHS post as appropriate and went to considerable lengths to secure and support the backfill.

However, very regrettably due to unforeseen circumstances this backfill is now not possible.

Please be assured that every effort will be made to secure this backfill to enable the CAMHS Consultant to commence in the South East Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist Intellectual Disability post at the earliest opportunity.

Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Anne Donaghey
Head of Mental Health Services
South East Community Healthcare