



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta, Acmhainní Daonna

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí Sláinte

Ospidéal Dr. Steevens'

Baile Átha Cliath 8

Office of the National Director of Human Resources

Health Service Executive

Dr. Steevens' Hospital

Dublin 8

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Pádraig Mac Lochlainn T.D.

10th March, 2022

PQ 10631/22 To ask the Minister for Health the reason that the HSE applies dual qualification criteria to the recruitment of therapists that disregard the length of time that a therapist has studied and instead place an emphasis on additional qualifications in the fields of social work, psychology and medicine. -Pádraig Mac Lochlainn

Dear Deputy,

I refer to your recent parliamentary question above which was sent to the HSE for reply.

Within the HSE National Counselling Service the eligibility criteria for Counselling Therapist are approved by the HSE National Director of HR under powers conferred on her under s.22 of the Health Act 2004. The process of approval of eligibility criteria requires there to have been consultation with internal and external stakeholders which would include the relevant professional bodies, the clinical services, and any relevant trade unions.

There are a number of other counselling, therapist and psychotherapist posts within the HSE that have not had their eligibility criteria formally approved in this manner. However, job specifications for these posts would typically follow the same eligibility criteria as for the counselling therapist.

There is no current intention within the HSE to formalise the eligibility criteria for all other counselling, therapist and psychotherapist posts. The future regulation of all such posts by CORU will deal with this issue. It will a matter for CORU to determine the types of degree that will merit registration, and this will include the determination of the equivalence of qualifications acquired outside Ireland. Thereafter, CORU registration will be the first criterion that applicants for posts in any of these disciplines will have to meet.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marie O'Sullivan".

Marie O'Sullivan
National HR