



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte  
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.  
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Deputy Mark Ward

Dail Eireann,

Dublin 2.

21<sup>st</sup> July 2022

PQ Number: 37492/22

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the status of the capacity review of authorised officers across community healthcare organisations; when the review will be completed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Mark Ward

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Dear Deputy Ward,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Department of Health is currently reviewing the Mental Health Act and we are aware that the role of the authorised officer is being considered as part of that review.

In 2022 to date the HSE have delivered three training courses for Authorised Officers, two for new Authorised Officers and one refresher for exiting Authorised officers.

There are currently trained 156 authorised officers and based on the current recommendations of four per 10,000 the target number is 189 by Q4 of 2022.

Please see below table which shows the number of authorised officers per CHO in 2021 and 2022.



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2021					2022				
CHO Area	Population	Delegated Authorised Officers	recommended number of AO's @ 4 Per 100,000	Surplus/deficit	CHO Area	Population	Delegated Authorised Officers	recommended number of AO's @ 4 Per 100,000	Surplus/deficit
1	389,048	14	16	-2	1	389,048	19	16	3
2	445,000	23	18	5	2	445,000	28	18	10
3	379,327	14	15	-1	3	379,327	18	15	3
4	664,533	11	26	-15	4	664,533	11	26	-15
5	479,578	16	20	-4	5	479,578	17	20	-3
6	364,464	8	15	-7	6	364,464	11	15	-4
7	674,071	11	27	-16	7	674,071	14	27	-13
8	592,388	14	24	-10	8	592,388	16	24	-8
9	581,486	12	23	-11	9	581,486	19	23	-4
0 (CMH)		3			0 (CMH)		3		
<b>Total</b>		<b>126</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>-61</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>156</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>-31</b>

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

**Tony McCusker**  
General Manager Mental Health Services