



National Director, Community Operations  
Dr. Steevens Hospital, Dublin 8, DO8 W2A8  
Tel: 01 6352596 Email: communityoperations@hse.ie

Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta, Oibríochtaí Pobail  
Ospidéal Dr. Steevens' Baile Atha Cliath 8, DO8 W2A8  
T 01 6352596 R: communityoperations@hse.ie

**11<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

Deputy Mark Ward  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**Re: PQ ref: 37836/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of trainee clinical psychologists who were supported to be able to work in the HSE in past five years; the amount that this measure cost; the number of graduates from the programme; the number who went onto work for the HSE as qualified clinical psychologists; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Mark Ward**

Dear Deputy Ward,

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

This information is not readily available. The terms of the type of contract wherein a clinical psychologist student is to provide payback after the completion of their PhD, covers a period of three years following qualification. Additionally this is only a requirement where there is vacant post available.

Over the last five or more years due to difficulties with the process of getting approvals, the HSE have not been in a position to offer employment at the time of completion of their trainee contract in effect releasing them from their payback condition.

This process of following through on post qualification employment was and is to become part of the remit of the national Office as recommended in the Psychology report which can be viewed at the following link;  
<https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/jobs/eligibility-criteria/psychology-report-jan-2021.pdf>

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

*Yvonne O'Neill*

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Yvonne O'Neill,  
National Director,  
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