

15th March 2022

Deputy Holly Cairns
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 11111/22

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of psychologists in the CHO4 HSE mental health services that were informed of opportunities to transfer into posts for each of the years 2014 to 2021; the context and the means by which these opportunities were communicated; the number of psychologists in CHO4 that expressed an interest in writing in availing of opportunities to transfer into posts for each of these years; the number of psychologists in CHO4 that were facilitated in each of these years to transfer into posts that were not first advertised to eligible candidates on the relevant national recruitment panel.”

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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.

All Psychologists within Cork Kerry Community Health Care have annual Personal Development Planning meetings. Staff are advised that any requests for potential reassignment can be raised in this forum or requested in writing to the Principal Psychology Manager.

Internal transfers can only happen on a grade to grade basis where staff members have already been appointed to that grade through a national competitive process. Staff typically will be relocated by agreement but in exceptional circumstance can be moved to meet critical service need subject to union consultation. Any backfill of vacant posts will go through the national recruitment process.

Please note, it is not possible for HSE to comment on individual cases whereby a reassignment of a staff member has been facilitated based on their specific request. All staff that have been facilitated with a reassignment of roles have already been appointed to the HSE via national recruitment panels. Any backfill of their substantive posts have also been filled via HBS national panels. It is at the discretion of management within the HSE to manage the staff resources as effectively as possible optimising service provision and meeting critical need, whilst also being cognisant of our duty of care to staff and ongoing retention.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Kind Regards,



Mr Kevin Morrison
A/Head of Mental Health Services
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare

