

11th April 2022

Deputy Holly Cairns
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 11112/22

“To ask the Minister for Health the way appointments by transfer for psychologists in the CHO4 mental health services were adjudicated; the process involved in allocating these posts; the rationale for their approval by senior management in each of the years 2014 to 2021 given the national panel process that applies to psychology recruitment and the absence of a transfer policy within the discipline; if unadvertised transfers which are not preceded by attempts to fill those posts through the relevant recruitment panel will continue as a form of recruitment for psychologists in CHO4 in the years ahead; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

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. Please accept my apologies for the delay in issuing this response to you.

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.

Cork Kerry Mental Health service will continue their efforts to maximise the number of psychologists in post in the region despite the national shortage of the discipline and this will include recruitment via national panels and if required local competitions when posts are unable to fill via said national panel system.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Kind Regards,



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