

10th March 2022

Deputy Holly Cairns,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 11114/22

“To ask the Minister for Health the reason a local interview was used as the method of recruitment to a senior psychologist adult mental health post in St. Stephen's Hospital, Fermoy home-based crisis team in March 2017 instead of the relevant national recruitment panel; the reason the relevant national recruitment panel was later used in October 2017 when the post was vacated and again advertised; 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.

The recruitment of this post at this time was based on service requirements and enhancing the service in line with Mental Health Commission recommendations. The post was instigated by the Head of Service on foot of time related saving in the system and initially was offered internally as an interim 6 month higher duties appointment to meet service exigencies. The sole staff member who had expressed interest in this interim position was subsequently offered a permanent appointment elsewhere in the country before taking up higher duties. The Head of Service subsequently approved the processing of a 12 month temporary appointment through HBS which was subsequently accepted in October 2017.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Kind Regards,



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