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Deputy Willie O Dea 2 Glenview Gardens Farranshone Limerick

25th March 2022

Re: PQ ref 16351/22 "To ask the Minister for Health when a new child psychiatrist will be appointed to the mid-west area; his plans to deal with the long child psychology waiting lists in the area; and if he will make a statement on the matter"

Dear Deputy O Dea

Thank you for your recent correspondence seeking a response regarding when a new child psychiatrist will be appointed in the Mid-West Area and plans in dealing with the long child psychology waiting lists in the area.

We are actively seeking Consultants in Child Psychiatry in the Mid-West Area and we continue engaging with agencies regularly. As you are aware there is a lack of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Consultants throughout the country. The Service is working to recruit a consultant candidate for July 2022. The service has also completed interviews for the CAMHS consultant MHID and it is anticipated that this post will be filled in the coming months.

The Child & Adolescent Mental health service do not hold internal psychology specific waiting lists. There are significant waiting lists for the CAMHS service, and currently we have 75% of the allocated posts filled. As Psychology is a difficult profession to recruit due to a short supply of output from the training programmes, every effort is being made to fill the posts through national and local recruitment.

I trust this answers your queries, please feel free to contact me if you require further information.

Yours sincerely,

Niamh Wallace Head of Service

Mid-West Mental Health Services