

18<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Deputy Pa Daly  
Dáil Éireann  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 21791/22**

**“To ask the Minister for Health if teleclinics will not be used as a temporary or permanent measure to provide adult mental health services in lieu of a permanent consultant psychiatrist who is based in north County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Daly,

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.

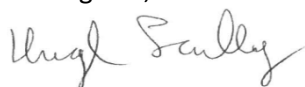
I wish to assure you that every effort is being made by management in Cork Kerry Community Healthcare Mental Health Services to recruit a permanent Consultant Psychiatrist for the North Kerry Adult Mental Health Service. Unfortunately, these efforts have been successful to date.

In the interim a number of measures to provide consultant cover have been put in place, including the provision of emergency consultant cover arrangements from within the current consultant cohort in Kerry Mental Health Services.

Also included in the measures being taken is a pilot proposal which has been submitted to National Office for a Remote Clinical Lead for North Kerry Psychiatry of Later Life Team and this is being considered. It is proposed that the Remote Clinical Lead will be leading the North Kerry sector remotely on a full time basis and will travel to North Kerry every 6 weeks for face to face Multidisciplinary supervision, on call, and review of complex cases. We are also seeking approval for 1 Advanced Nurse Practitioner to support the outpatient clinics and prescribing, Grade IV Administrator to administer the clinics and Psychology Assistant to support the service user during clinical consults. This supports the key principals of Slaintecare in that it provides an effective, person centred service in real time. Kerry Mental Health Services have had the experience of implementing this model of care elsewhere within the service which to date has been a success.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Kind Regards,



**Mr Hugh Scully**  
**A/General Manager**  
**Mental Health Services**  
**Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**