

26th May 2022

Deputy Holly Cairns
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 25324/22

“To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 666 of 1 March 2022 and 840 of 5 April 2022, his views on the contention by a number of psychologists in the Cork mental health service that they were not informed at their personal development plan meetings or otherwise, of opportunities to transfer into posts outside of the nationally-agreed recruitment process over a period of years (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter..”

Details Supplied: “and on the fact that these public appointments took place in a manner that was not covered by HR policy and circumvented relevant national recruitment panels, and therefore imposed disadvantage on candidates ranked on those recruitment panels who would have expressed an interest in the posts in-question.”

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 note, all staff members had access to the psychology manager or relevant supervisor to discuss requests for internal reassignment on a grade to grade basis should such reassignment be necessitated. Requests could have been highlighted in the context of annual PDP meetings or in the form of email/written communication at any point throughout the year to the Principal Psychology Manager requesting consideration of reassignment.

Any reassignments that were facilitated were subject to backfill of the substantive post thus offering staff on HBS national panels opportunities for promotion within the Cork Kerry Mental Health Services.

I trust the above clarifies the queries raised.

Kind Regards,



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