



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte  
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin,  
Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.  
R: [PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie](mailto:PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie)

Head of Operations, Mental Health Service  
St Loman's Hospital,  
Palmerstown, Dublin 20.  
Email: [PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie](mailto:PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie)

Deputy Holly Cairns,  
Dail Eireann,  
Dublin 2.

26<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**PQ Number: 25325/22**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 825 and 826 of February 2022 and 1091 of 22 March 2022, the precise specialisms in adult mental health psychology and the exact criteria referred to in the response which warrant a bypassing of the national recruitment panel system for HSE psychologists; if these specialisms and criteria have been agreed to by the HSE's national human resources department and trade unions as constituting exceptions to the national recruitment panel system for HSE psychologists; and if so, the location in which these details are recorded and collectively signed-off in policy form – Holly Cairns**

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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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

In general terms, where a national panel exists for a particular grade, this will be exhausted as a recruitment route before alternative recruitment routes are explored for any role remaining unfilled. Where a role arises with criteria or specialisms required which have not been assessed as part of the selection process producing the national panel, alternative recruitment routes may be pursued. This will be determined by each CHO area on the basis of service need and is in line with the legislation governing recruitment.

National panels are designed in partnership with the profession that is the Principal Psychology Managers with responsibility for the delivery of Psychology Services within the HSE, they ensure that candidates recommended for appointment have the necessary qualification and skill set to work with the specific client groups across Psychology Services within the HSE including Adult Mental Health. The decision to fill a post through an internal expression of interest (transfer) is conducted directly by the Service and therefore is not covered by HR policy or recorded nationally.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.



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Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Ryan'.

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**Jim Ryan**  
**Assistant National Director - Head of Operations**  
**National Mental Health Services**