



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

Head of Operations, Mental Health Service
St Loman's Hospital,
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Deputy Patrick Costello,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

5th September 2022

PQ Number: 42407/22

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the reason that successful applicants to the panel for the recent recruitment by the HSE of counsellors and therapists for the provision of mental health counselling in primary care services were informed that due to a financial review the posts were no longer available; the reason that the same positions are now being advertised by a recruitment agency (details supplied) as temporary seasonal positions on a self-employed basis; his views on this case and on the outsourcing of employment contracts by the HSE in the context of the phasing in of the Sláintecare Programme; and his views on whether this policy is compatible with that Programme.

Details Supplied: CPL Recruitment agency. This is concerning the Dublin South West region

Dear Deputy Costello,

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.

HSE Recruitment operates under license to recruit permanent Counsellor/Therapists for the HSE NCS CIPC service. A national panel for counsellor/therapists is in place and all permanent posts are recruited from this panel.

Following an examination of the structure of counselling services in one CHO area under the relevant Director of Counselling's remit – a decision was made to reconfigure all vacant and development posts for that area to provide more robust governance structures. A reconfiguration of resources took place accordingly. Two counsellor/therapist roles were offered in this area and subsequently withdrawn to facilitate this re-configuration.

Hiring of additional counsellor/therapists through agencies such as is unrelated to recruitment of permanent positions.



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Counselling in primary care utilise counsellor therapists from agencies such as CPL on an ongoing basis to provide counselling for specific initiatives as required. Such initiatives are funded on a once off non-recurring basis. Agency counsellor therapists provide an important element of the CIPC service enabling CIPC to respond flexibly to specific service needs as they arise. This is a key aspect of the CIPC model of service which has been in place since the establishment of the service in 2013.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Mc Cusker', written in a cursive style.

Tony Mc Cusker
General Manager
National Mental Health Services