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27.09.2022

Deputy Fergus O'Dowd
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 45627/22

To ask the Minister for Health further to the funding that was provided in November 2021 for dedicated principal social work posts for adult safeguarding in each of the seven hospital groups, if he will seek a full update on the current status of the posts; if they have been filled; if job descriptions have been set out; if so, if a copy of same can be provided; if he will outline the assurances that are in place to ensure consistency of practice across these roles; if he will provide any other relevant details on the matter; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O Dowd,

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.

Following Executive Management Team (EMT) and Board approval in November 2021, investment was included in the National Service Plan 2021 (NSP) for Strengthening Direct and Indirect Service Support Capacity. One of the initiatives included was Adult Safeguarding. In August 2022, correspondence was issued to the Hospital Groups advising of the funding for 1 x WTE Principle Social Worker post per Hospital Group. Attached, is the generic Job description agreed with the National Safeguarding office which was provided.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,



Margaret Brennan
Quality & Patient Safety, Acute Operations