



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,
Palmerstown, Dublin 20.
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Deputy Mark Ward.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

11th July 2023

PQ Number: 32161/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health for a breakdown of funding for wages for trainees in the counselling psychology postgraduate degree at Trinity College Dublin; where this funding has been allocated from; if the €750,000 funding for trainee counselling psychologists has been allocated; if so, where it has been allocated; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Mark Ward

Dear Deputy Ward,

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.

While this is a matter that the Mental Health Unit in the Department of Health may have additional information on, I can advise that:

€750,000 has been provided in Budget 2023 to support counselling psychology training places. Minister Butler has confirmed that she is focussed on supporting counselling psychology students in an equitable way that delivers value for money. This funding will be used to support strategic workforce planning for the years ahead in order to ensure that the counselling needs of the health service are better met.

The structure of this funding is currently being finalised by officials in the Department of Health. The approach will be based on best practice and knowledge gained from other health and social care funded training models and will be guided by discussions with ourselves in the HSE.

I understand that an announcement will be made on the details of the funding allocation shortly, and in advance of the 2023-24 academic year.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Mc Cusker'.

Tony Mc Cusker
General Manager
National Mental Health Services