



Priscilla Lynch
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04th August 2023

Deputy Holly Cairns, TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref: 35877/23

"To ask the Minister for Health the number of psychologists employed by each primary care psychology service in Cork and Kerry, by grade, in tabular form."

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.

The table below outlines the funded psychology posts by grade in Cork Kerry Community Healthcare (CKCH). In addition to this CKCH also has 2 Principal Psychologists – 1 covering North Lee and North Cork and the other covers Kerry, South Lee and West Cork.

Area	Senior Grade	Staff Grade	Psychology Assistant
North Cork	1.0	1.5	2.0
North Lee	1.0	4.0	6.0
South Lee	1.0	4.0	5.0
West Cork	1.0	0.5	1.0
Kerry	1.0	2.0	2.0
National WL Initiative	1.0	1.5	2.0
Local WL Initiative	1.0	1.0	0
Total CKCH	7	14.5	18

In South Lee there are currently 1.9 unfilled staff grade psychologist posts and 2 psychology assistant post unfilled and 1.0 wte psychologist on statutory leave. There is one psychology assistant vacancy in Kerry. In North Cork there is a vacant staff grade psychologist post which is due to be filled in October 2023. Local recruitment options have been optimised and student sponsorship had been implemented to address longstanding recruitment challenges.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare Primary Care Psychology has been funded to address longest waiting children. 3 psychologists, 2 assistant psychologists and supporting administration have been approved for 2023. There are 2.5 psychologists in post presently with 1 statutory leave pending at senior grade.

There is a Local Waitlist Initiative to address transition of children with disability non- complex needs. 1 senior and 1 staff grade psychologist were funded to provide priority interventions to approximately 500 children, with identified psychology needs, who transferred from the funded voluntary agencies in 2021. Subsequently additional need for psychology input for other children has been identified by the MDT. This resource is currently prioritised towards autism intervention pathways and other group

pathways in addition to assimilating children to core pathways, in accordance with prioritisation and waiting time. The staff grade post has been unable to fill.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Priscilla Lynch', written in a cursive style.

Priscilla Lynch
Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare