



Ceann Seirbhíse, Cúram Príomhúil
Baile Átha Cliath Theas, Cill Dara & Iarthar Chill Mhantáin
– Cúram Sláinte Pobail

Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co. Chill Dara, W91 KDC2

Head of Service, Primary Care
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03/03/2023

Deputy Patricia Ryan
Dáil Eireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 10478/23 - To ask the Minister for Health the reason it has taken so long to fill a social worker post for a hospice in the Curragh, County Kildare; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Deputy Patricia Ryan

Dear Deputy Ryan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for a response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Health Service Executive can confirm the funding for this post was approved in 2018 and the post has been vacant since June 2019. Recruitment of ECC (enhanced community care) posts were prioritised as the bereavement support counsellor was in post (until May 2022) and provided the required services to the inpatient unit. Additional resources were provided to the HR dept. to progress the recruitment requirements in CHO7 and the medical social worker post has been accepted and is at contract stage, and start date for March 2023

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

Yours sincerely,

PP

**Ms Paula Barron on behalf of Ms Gillian Farrelly
Interim Head of Service, Primary Care
Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow Community Healthcare**